The Daily Tar Fleel

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Editor Zane Bobbins Bus Office Mgr. Ed Williams
Editor Caroline Briner Nat'l. Adv. Mgr. June Crockett
rather Jim Mills Assistant Sports Editor Larry Fox
al Staff: Jack Brown, Bill Kellam, Mike McDaniel, Tom Wnarton,
Glibbon, Joe Seykora, Vestal Taylor, Al Johnson, Charlle Joyner, Dave e, John Stump.

ess Staff: Neal Cadieu, Don Stanford, Bootsy Taylor, Bill Brain, Ruth
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L. Jim Lindley, Branson Hobbs, John Poindexter, Carolyn Harrill, Liia
sons Beverly Serr, Bruce Bauer, Joe Nelson, Leonard Rawls.

A Tragedy to Be Forgotten

The serenity of a peaceful Easter weekend in almost deserted Chapel Hill was broken abruptly Friday afternoon by the murder of George Lemuel Bennett, Jr., in his study room. And while Police searched frantically for the assailant, Len Broughton Smithey, Bennett's room mate who had been seen leaving the room a few minutes after the death shots were fired, wrote finis to the case by taking his own life in the wooded area back of the Forest Theater. The combined murder-suicide will go down as one of the most grotesque events in the history of the University.

Fortunately for the school there was no gambling, drinking, or fighting connected with the incident. Thus the University's reputation should not suffer. There was no earthly way by which the tragic episode might have been avoided, and perhaps we have been lucky at Carolina in having so few incidents resulting in the death of a student or students. There is some question being raised now as to why Smithey was released from the Veterans Hospital in Fayetteville, over the protest of a psychiatrist. Smithey had been diagnosed as a paranoic case. Yet no one could foresee the dire consequences which have resulted from Smithey's release. This hospital case can be written off as no more than a bad error in judgment on the part of someone.

There is no lesson involved in the weekend incident. A completely innocent student was murdered by another obviously deranged student. The parents of the two boys have the sympathy of the entire University and state. The murdersuicide of Easter 1950 must be listed as a tragedy-and for-

Get Up and Vote

A long week of anxiety comes to an end for four students today-Don Van Noppen, John Sanders, Chuck Hauser, and Graham Jones. They have been sweating it out all week waiting for the student body to decide today just who will be the next president of the student body and editor of the Daily Tar Heel.

So today is the big day—the payoff day for the two most important offices held by students on campus. Yes, most of the officers for 1950-51 were elected last week in the general elections. But just who is elected today will determine who will have the biggest say-so in student government and campus activities for the year. Thus it is the duty of every student who voted in the primary election last week to vote today-along with the thousands of students who did not see fit to go to the polls before.

The president of the student body must first be someone well versed in the functions and practices of student government. Student government may well be said to revolve around him, particularly through his appointive powers. Then secondly, the president of the student body is the representative that you, the students, send out to represent this school in public affairs. He is the official delegate of the students at conferences and meetings, and must take the lead in welcoming visitors to this campus and in participating in

The editor of the Daily Tar Heel might well be said to be the spokesman of the campus. The DTH is sent to alumni and other people all over this state. Its editorials are frequently considered to express the opinion of the entire campus-for the editor is the only person on the staff elected by the student body. He should be representative of the students and reflect the opinion of the majority as nearly as is possible. The Job of editor of the paper is a daily grind also-always there are editorials to be written and the general responsibility of seeing that the paper appears each day.

Thus the students that are elected to these two key positions today will have a heavy burden to shoulder for the next year. It is imperative then that a large number of students turn-out to the polls to express their opinion on who really is the students', not the politicians', choice for president and

There have been charges and counter-charges throughout the last two weeks. But fortunately the mud-slinging has been down to a minimum recently, and the students should be able to cast their ballots intelligently without a host of rumors and reported scandals drifting about.

Just because you voted in last week's election doesn't mean you have done your duty. The positions at a stake today are far the most important. Make the men elected today truly majority candidates.

Clear Those Butletin Boards

With the exception of the races for president of the student body and editor of the DTH, the campaigning came to an end on campus exactly a week ago. Yet the bulletin boards around the school still remain cluttered with political posters, exhorting students to vote for this or that-all issues /which were settled last week. It's high time that these posters were taken down. Each student who ran for office should see to it that the posters in his immediate area are taken down, and janitors in the buildings should be instructed that elections are over and that they may now clear the bulletin boards in the main class buildings over the campus.

Lefters

To the Ed

The open letter of Saturday's edition has been yeasting in my thoughts. This, as reminder, was the one where "Signature Withheld" cited specialized and timeconsuming endeavor, such as Tar Heel work, as an almost certain bar to the Order of the Old Well, through the latter's point-based admission.

This sort of letter hits me where I live: I've spent a long time in the thankless chore of publications.

The basic question prompts me to wonder whether the average student appreciates the degree of all-out effort (by so few) that goes into the making of his campus newspaper.

Contrary to certain misconceived opinion, the Tar Heel isn't produced by anyone's waving of a wand. Neither do the elves bring it. Instead, the thing comes out by gist of darned hard work.

I am in good position to see such work. This is because of my night-shift job at Colonial Press where the Tar Heel gets printed. Much of it, at times, trickles through my own fingers before it hits the press.

Therefore I think I know the Tar Heel well; its virtues, its faults, its targets for correction. In the latter I have faith because I know the thoughtful study for improvement that is now going on from within. My own suggestions, as a shop-man, have been solicited; I like the trend. The story has not yet broken; it's not yet ready. It may not break at all if today's election swings the other way.

This Tar Heel is no New York Times; that's granted. But as attention of the American pubstrictly a collegiate effort, a lic. Once again Hollywood has sideline show put up by ama- come out with a film that by teurs, it stands up well in the reason of its quality of success-

thankless enough, but its field is broader (and perhaps a bit more mature) than a self-contained parish like a campus. Here, conversely, the readership is a close-knit bundle of TNT with controversial interests. The editor cannot escape. He must buck right through his job (and friends) with the stamina of a mule. It takes nothing short of "years to learn the ropes" to survive the ride.

2-On an "outside" newspaper, the editor gains his post through sheer hard work and merit. It takes about 15 years to get bridle-wise enough to make the grade. Then he produces, or he's fired. Here, conversely, there "ain't no firin' if the deal pans wrong," and to get the job at all it's a straightout case of the "mostest friends on the right election date.'

3-An "outside" newspaper has plant and staff facilities to shut out crackpots, thus to let the staff do its work. Here, though, the Graham Memorial office is a catch-all and a goldfish bowl where you can't tell the staff from the kibitzers. T'ain't right. As example, did you ever try to cope with a misconceived "crusader" who wants his two-bit item captioned with a front-page streamer? - one who threatens to yank the Alpha Zeta Pooh bloc-vote if his interest isn't gained? It happens daily at the Tar Heel.

The dubious elements here expressed would not exist three minutes on any other kind than a campus paper. The rush for deadlines would not let it.

I could argue into the nightbut what's the use? The answer comes up that somebody is pegging life-blood for the Tar Heel. and strangely, "for the love of the thing." It's simply in the

Because the chore gets done at all. I think the Tar Heel staff, all-out, deserves a vote of confidence and thanks.

It's one thing to "dream" a good Tar Heel; another thing to make it stick. Does the very complicity of this job occur to you? In technical aspects alone, the tyro is lost at the start. It takes weaning long in overtime just to bring him up to scratch. (See EDIT, page 4)



Spring Is Here

Orientation Planning

By Bob Clampitt

During the past year, we've seen a number of films that have reflected certain social scene. Films like "Gentleman's and "Pinky" have brought those problems to the fully reflecting certain social I, myself, wouldn't take a Tar and political phenomena stands Heel editorship for all the tea out as a distinguished example in China. Here are some reasons of film production. Such a film is "All the King's Men", which 1-An "outside" newspaper is has just been awarded the Academy Award for the best picture of the past year. Robert Rossen, as producer and director, has fashioned his screenplay from Robert Penn Warren's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name.

"All the King's Men" could

be taken as the story of the many political machines which, while wining the support of the "people" with public works and private favor, thrive and feed themselves on graft, corruption, and the destruction of any force or individual daring to stand in opposition. Actually, the film is a thinly disguished version of the Huey Long empire, which thrust itself onto the American political scene in the thirties.

In recounting the rise and fall of the Louisiana "Kingfish", Mr. Rossen has done a very good job in this respect: he has made the moving picture of history a fixed and still tableau, while retaining the live elements of drama. In telling the story of

Willie Stark-from the time. he started as a sincere naive dogooder, uneducated and fighting

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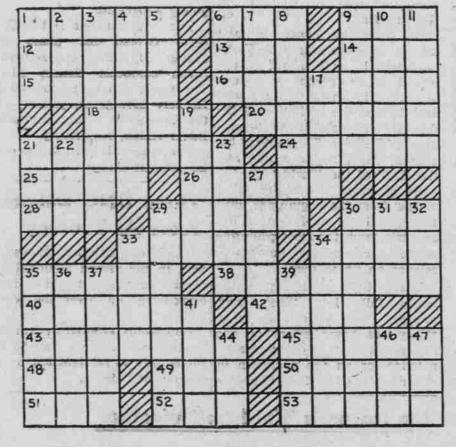
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a battle he didn't understand, to the time he is assasinated ir. the lobby of the ornate legislative hall which he built as a living monument to himself-the picture never gets down to a point where it seems to be preaching, warning, or moralizing. In fact, it's this quality, plus the excellent acting of Broderick Crawford as Stark, John Ireland, and a newcomer, Mercedes McCambridge, that gives the film its strength.

Stark is the small-time politician in a losing battle against the local interests of crime and corruption. When a school building collapses, killing some of the children and confirming his accusations of grafted construction contracts, his political career is launched in earnest.

He attaches himself to a disillusioned nespaperman, John Ireland, who serves as his hatchet man, and builds himself as the savior of the people. Sweeping all before him, Stark becomes governor, involves prominent individuals and their families in the political cesspool, grows powerful with the Hitlerian rationalization that he is merely a Robin Hood for the masses -stealing from the rich to give to the poor-and keeps himself in power by his private army of police that destroys all opposition. His career reaches a climax with the impeachment proceedings. However, he rides out this storm by bullying and blackmail but is murdered by a member of a prominent family he destroys.

Broderick Crawford's playing won for him the Academy Award for the best actor of the year. His portrayal of Stark is both sympathetic and forceful, never for a moment leaving any doubt that even well-meaning persons can grow into dangers to society. Miss McCambridge, as Stark's aide-de-camp, also won herself an Academy Award as the best supporting actress. In her first screen appearance, she shows talent, color, and looks.

In the cast also, in an important role, may be seen Shepperd Strudwick, former student-here at the University of North Carolina who was prominent in the Carolina Playmakers. The rest of the cast, including Joanne Dru, John Derek, and Anne Seymour, complement the leads

It occurs to me that this film is coming to Chapel Hill at a time when this campus is settling certain political offices and political questions, and certain words like "graft" and "corruption" have been bounded about quite freely. "All the King's Men" will give you a good idea of what these words

DREW PEARSON The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

WASHINGTON. -Sen. Lypdon Johnson, the likable young solon from Texas, has been confidently telling friends: "The President is going to sign the Kerr Natural Gas bill all right. Otherwise he will have some very sore Democratic senators on his neck, and Harry Truman is just too smart to let this happen.'

THE PARTY OF THE PERSON

The inference is that if the President doesn't go along with the Democratic natural gas Senators, some of them might just happen to swing over to the Republicans, and play havoc with the presidential pro-

This, in the words of the more discreet politicians, is called "logrolling" in reverse; though in the words of the brutally frank it is called legislation by "blackmail." Whatever you call it, many of the boys on capitol hill now figure they have Harry Truman where they want him and can put on the squeeze.

The first time they sensed this was when he changed his mind about vetoing the cotton-peanut acreage bill.

Smart Republican observers, also sensing this, have already upped their betting on the Congressional elections next November by 50 per cent. They know that whenever a President becomes the creature of a Congress rather than its leader, his party starts on the down-

GOP Gets Cocky

Here's what happened regard-

makes the Republicans so cocky. The cotton-peanut acreage bill started out to be a good bill. Some such legislation was nejustices in acreage, especially cotton. But when the bill got cotton allotments by 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 acres. This, despite the fact that the taxpayers have already shelled out \$601,133,844 to pay for surplus cotton, which is many times the amount of the potato bill, though receiving a lot less publicity. Potatoes, for instance, cost Uncle Sam only \$50,000,000 this year.

Several Congressmen opposed this increase, including Cecil White of Fresno, Calif., once one of the biggest cotton growers in the Central Valley: also Stephen Pace of Georgia, who knows more about agriculture than most Congressmen; and W. R. Poage, from cotton-growing Texas. The Department of Agriculture also opposed any increase said that cotton acreage should be 18 to 19 million acres. But a coalition, led by Dixie-

crat Tom Abernethy of Mississippi, overruled them, fixed the acreage at 22 to 23 million. Once the cotton bloc had upped its acreage, Congressman Pace, who represents a great peanut-growing district, demanded the same treatment for the Georgia "goober."

Wheat Will Be Next

The Department of Agriculture argued that no more peanuts were necessary, but pea nut acreage was increased by 100,000 acres anyway.

At this point, the wheat lobby also wanted to increase its acreage, but Congressman Cilff Hope of Kansas, ranking Republican, agreed to put wheat in another bill. He made it plain, however. that the wheat farmers would expect to get theirs too.

Meanwhile, last year's wheat carryover was 307,000,000 bushels; the cetton carryover was 5,287,000 bales; the Commodity Credit Corporation, which handles these surpluses has exhausted its funds, has had to remove handles on pork and will need an additional borrowing authority of two billion dollars. Its total loss on price supports for the year ending June 30, 1949, was \$254,762,000.

All this was why Truman's economic adviser urged him to veto the cotton-peanut bill. They argued that crop acreages must be held down, not increased; that if peanuts and cotton were increased, other crops would have to be increased, and that not even potatoes could be cut.

At first, the President was all set to veto. Then the biggest guns in the Democratic Party unlimbered for action, including some of his best friends.

Smart Lobbying

Organizer of the Key West pressure was Georgia's astute Sen. Dick Russell. Though not ing cotton and peanuts that being an intimate of Truman's, he was smart enough to stay in the background, let recognized Trumanites do the lobbying. Instead, Senators Lister Hill and cessary in order to rectify in- John Sparkman of Alabama, Olin Johnston of South Carolina, and Frank Graham of into the House Agriculture North Carolina, all southern Committee, the steam-roller cot- democrats engaged in fighting ton lobby managed to increase the Dixiecrats, sent messages to

> But most effective of all was Vice President Barkley who made a phone call to Mr. Truman, in effect warned him:

"If you veto this bill, there will be an explosion that will rock the Democratic Party. A veto would torpedo the Fair Deal and play into the hands of the Dixiecrats and the Republicans"

The President was also told by various friends that veto of the cotton-peanut bill might cost votes on Marshall Plan money, might lese support in puncturing the "Communistbogey" set up by Senator McCarthy. On the other hand, increasing cotton and peanuts acreage would buy solid Souther Democratic votes for the State Department and its foreign policy.

Mr. Truman listened, worried,

signed the cotton-peanut bill. That's one reason Sen. Lyndon Johnson is so confident that he will also sign the Kerr Bill; also why the Republicans are getting so confident about next November.

Letters

To The Editor

It was with a great deal of amusement that I read a column in the Sunday edition of The Daily Tar Heel entitled "Viewing the Candidates." The author indulges in several very broad generalizations from which he draws specific conclusions. He also makes seemingly contradictory statements which I would like to have explained. .For example, he states that

"Jones is not the Student Party candidate," but that the party urges all students interested in an "independent newspaper" and an "independent editor" to vote for Jones.

Mr. Kimerling, if Jongs is not now the SP's candidate. who's candidate is he? What does he promise except vague abstractions which are a politician's stock in trade?

What do you mean by an "independent newspaper?" Hau-

ser has for three years presented unbiasedly, all the news the DTH could hold. No other candidate can make that claim. "Hauser has run his campaign on the basis of experience; in , this field he outstrips Jones." What other field is there?

He goes on to say "the 1,600 plus students who voted against Hauser could not have had such intimate contacts with him." Of course not! I think however that a large number of these votes were a product of the attempt to beat Hauser by slander and accusations that have not and cannot be proved.

If Mr. Hauser is such a poor journalist, why does he have the whole-hearted endorsement of the DTH staff? Mr. Kimerling, when you answer this question, mark your ballot ac-

Election Runoffs Today-Cast Your Ballots