

"There But For The Grace Of God Go I"
By NORWOOD MADDY

An interesting cartoon has been placed on the bulletin board of one of the cubbyholes where the professors' offices are located. It is not so unusual for cartoons to be found on these bulletin boards, for at times these little gems of humour are the only links between the world of the teachers and that of the students.

This particular cartoon was taken from one of the Sunday comic sections entitled "B. C." The situation of the cartoon is as follows: There is a large Green Worm crawling across a vast plain. Suddenly, the worm stops and stares for some time at an object approaching from the distance. As the large Green Worm watches, a small Red Worm of some obviously lower species crawls by the Green Worm. The Green worm looks pathetically at the little worm and then turning toward the reader, with wisdom far beyond that of a mortal worm, he says "there but for the grace of God go I."

The reader will either laugh or smile at the cleverness of the cartoonist. But, consider which worm we, as students, represent. Naturally, we think of ourselves as better than average. If the cartoon had continued, it would probably have shown the Green Worm crawling off in his own direction — perhaps never to encounter the small worm again. Yes, we students do represent the Green Worm.

As students, we are quick to condemn but slow to act. We criticize the food and the uncleanliness of our rooms if they are not cleaned daily. In reality we don't know how truly fortunate we are. We have the bad habit of condemning others when all is not going well for us and caring little (other than verbally) about the needs of others.

However, there are a few students on campus who are concerned about the needs of others and are showing their concern. Some students have organized a local Peace Corps.

What is this Peace Corps and who are these students? Many of you will say that they are the "do-gooders" and the Sunday School Crowd who are doing this to show how wonderfully sanctified they are. Well, you are wrong — dead wrong. This group is not out to heap a world of false glory on its shoulders, but merely to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Last Saturday some of these students went out to a small house near Laurinburg and tried to make the house a little more worthy of human occupancy. The porch, which was in a state

(Continued from Page 2)

Minority, Majority, Cont.

ored people, to be sure, are a noticeable minority — but so also are the persons who are of pure Celtic blood or, for that matter, of fine Spanish ancestry, or, indeed, of undiluted Anglo-Saxon stock. Or, going further, either Catholics or Protestants or Jews. And, nationwide, it is evidently a tight squeeze as to whether Democrats or Republicans may be ranked as a minority.

The Constitutions, national and state, and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof, are really agreements to protect the rights of the minorities. Victims of crimes are a very small minority, but our vast code of penal statutes is enacted and enforced for their sake. These principles may be led into conflict occasionally with our democratic system of government in which the majority rules. Here lies the importance of the Constitution. The Constitution outlines the rights to which every individual is entitled regardless of whether or not he is recognized as a member of a minority classification. The fact of a minority status must not be acknowledged when a real Constitutional principle is at stake.

* * *

It Is Wrong To exercise the

of ruin at the beginning of the day, was completely rebuilt by dusk. One side of the house, which was rotting away, was re-sided. Broken window panes were replaced. For years before the porch of the house had been first built, the occupant had to crawl through a window to gain entrance into her home. There is no electricity, no water connections, and up until this past Saturday, not even a water pump. It was hard for these students to realize that this house was being occupied by another human being.

The next time you turn down your heat switch, think of the old woman who has to use wood to keep her body warm. The next time you take a shower, remember how easy it is to turn a knob instead of carrying a bucket. Think before you criticize because your pork chops are thin or your rolls aren't hot. Think of the old woman and remember "there but for the grace of God go you."

public authority to confer special privilege, whether for a majority or a minority. It would appear that this statement is so plain that every citizen should not merely admit it but also would be on the alert to avoid giving the least support to any contrary movement.

Many of the difficulties, this writer would suggest, of our times have resulted from members of minority groups seeking to be granted special privileges above and beyond their rights. If a person is afforded any particular benefit under our government, it should be because he is a human being and a citizen, not because he happens to be a Negro, an Oriental, an Indian or a member of that downtrodden number who traditionally are called upon to shoulder the "white man's burden."

As example which may make plain that application of allegedly well-known rules, may we mention a much-talked Congressman, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, of New York. He appears to have spent almost as much time outside the United States as in it; he owns a palatial estate in Puerto Rico and married a woman on that island; he has voyaged far and wide—reportedly at government expense—traveled with ladies other than Mrs. Powell; he has had involved controversies in regard to his income taxes, and he has been absent from the Congress on at least one or two occasions which badly discommodated a House committee of which he is chairman. Yet last week he was reported as having preached a sermon (he is pastor of a church in New York) in which he tried to claim that he has been visited with criticism because he happened to be a colored man.

Incidentally, we might be well advised to remember that the most cruel tyrannies in history have been instances of minority rule. The communists were a decided minority in Russia when they took over that nation. Down the centuries, despotic rulers have been representatives of parties or cliques of only fractional numbers.

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(Continued from Page 3)

On And Off Campus. Govt. Cont.

must be put down as a black mark against student government as a whole for allowing it to continue.

The Fourth Branch

In the Student Life Committee lies the authority of student government. Its membership is made up of eighteen persons, nine faculty members appointed by the Faculty Executive Committee and nine students. The student body is represented by the Student Association President, the President pro tem of the Senate, the editors of the Lamp and Shield and the Lance plus five students who are nominated by the Cabinet and approved by the Senate. Its functions are similar to those of the Cabinet in that it acts as a coordinating center and as a reviewer of all student legislation.

The word "delay" has become the by-word used by many students in describing this committee and its functions. Many students fail, however, to realize that we are a new school and that there are problems that will take time to work out. We do not have the precedents that other schools have to fall back on and thus must work many campus problems out for the first time. There is still a theoretical fallacy in the power of the Student Life Committee. They may if they wish, bottleneck any student legislation by simply not acting upon it or by repeatedly sending it through a mass of sub-committees. The Senate and Cabinet at present can go over a veto of the Student Life Committee but can not force it to act on any legislation.

The Student Life Committee can serve as an important part in student organization with its ability to bring together key student department representatives, but its present control of power must be loosened so that the machinery set up by elected student officials can work on a more authoritative level.

Change Needed

Change in our present student government is an unquestionable need recognized by both faculty and students. Many aspects of our system, such as

the Senate, need only to tighten its organization and become a more informative body that will present the views of the students who elected them to their positions.

Organization in the judicial branch needs a definite change. Removal of the faculty's voting power in the Student Faculty Judicial Committee is of prime importance. The students MUST be able to take the responsibility upon themselves of maintaining an Honor Court that will command the respect of all St. Andrews students and faculty. Means of gaining respect for the decisions of the Honor Court would be to post its rulings where all students could read them.

The Cabinet could also stand a major change in that all its members should be DIRECTLY elected to cabinet seats and to present positions, except for the four elected executives, to hold cabinet seats would assume positions on the Student Life Committee. Here the function of organizational coordination could best take place.

Two definite measures need to be taken to limit the power of the Student Life Committee. (1) If the Committee fails to act on any legislation within set time, it may be called on of the Committee and sent back to the President of the College. (2) Any legislation sent back to the Senate for revision by the Student Life Committee need only to be sent through Senate sub-committee, passed on by the Senate, Cabinet, and then sent to the President of the College. I feel that these two measures would assure the student government a firm hand in student affairs.

Many of the changes that students and faculty members are now pointing out will need constitutional amending. This can best be accomplished at the upcoming spring convention. Yet there are other changes that can be made through student legislation and a greater awareness of the entire student body of the functions of student government.

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