

Politics - And College Students

In the colleges and universities of most European, South American and Oriental countries, usually the university student comprises the nucleus around which political opinions are formed and crystallized. However, in America, it has long been the peculiar premise that as far as the game of politics is concerned, the average college student is supposed to take no active part.

Since the ending of World War II and the influx of more mature students, veterans of world campaigns and contemporary makers of history, America's evaluation of her college students in relation to the business of political activity has undergone a radical if not too easily-perceptible change. The student is expected to have an adequate knowledge of issues, platforms, and the men who are running for the highest governmental positions in our land; not only does this new sense of responsibility require that he keep himself fairly intelligent as to the major issues involved but this responsibility demands that the mature American college student take a definite, active part in the focusing of public opinion on the necessity of interest in government and the duties involved in registering and voting.

The students of North Carolina College (no different from many American college students) have not yet awakened to the realization of the part that the intelligent youth of today can play in the affairs and destiny of their country. One of the most momentous national elections in years takes place next month. How many of us are aware of the fundamental issues involved? How many of us can coolly, dispassionately evaluate the men running for president: Dewey, Wallace, Thurmond, and the incumbent President? How many are aware of the bases for each candidate's foreign policy, if any at all? How many of us are interested in knowing and do know how his personal life and opportunities would be affected by the triumph of one of these candidates?

Aside from the Social Science Department, no other organization or group on the campus seems particularly active in galvanizing our students into attitudes of creative political consciousness. Let us have a series of debates, symposiums, public forums, open discussions, panel discussions, "bull sessions" or any other type of round-table talks where certain issues of governmental policies could be thrown into the open, not for the campaigning for any particular candidate, but for the student's enlightenment on all issues. We have many students and teachers who could inspire and lead such discussion groups. Let us become politically-conscious, for politics in America, especially for the Negro, opens a wide gate which leads down the only road to first-class citizenship.

The Pursuit Of Happiness

Last summer the Editors of Life magazine sponsored a round-table discussion on the little publicized third right of Americans—the pursuit of happiness as phrased by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. In a July issue of the magazine an account of the discussion was given. At this roundtable, which was held in Rye, New York at the Westchester county club, were gathered notables and eminent people who represented prototypes of Americans in various fields of endeavor. Such people as Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers, Erich Fromm, eminent philosopher, the mother of the year, and Betsy Barton noted novelist who has overcome a physical handicap were present at the roundtable.

There were several important conclusions arrived at and several principles recognized as fundamental necessities in the pursuit of happiness as the roundtable wrangled through three fateful days over the aspects of the right—do Americans generally take advantage of the right and are they usually successful in attaining happiness. Perhaps even more important than the conclusions reached by the roundtable was the mere fact that some Americans are becoming concerned over whether other Americans are capitalizing on the legal right that was granted them in the constitution. It is significant that somebody in this land of plenty where the inhabitants are the best fed, sheltered, and clothed in the world, realizes that these inhabitants are missing out on their opportunity to enjoy a privilege granted them in the constitution. It is significant that somebody in this highly impersonal and disinterested society is concerned over somebody else's happiness.

One very pertinent conclusion reached by the roundtable was the fact that the pursuit of happiness would be greatly encumbered unless the inner obstacles—state of mind, and the outer barriers—environmental obstacles, were removed. With due respect to problems posed by the environmental barriers, we believe the individual can do much more to alleviate the existing situation in his state of mind that prevents him from pursuing happiness unencumbered than to solve the problems which have their sources in his immediate or ultimate environment. On the merits of that assumption it is, then, the individual's responsibility to see that part of the handicap to his pursuit of happiness is overcome. It is our belief that this is the point that most individuals miss and which subsequently causes them to rely on the "straightening out of things" in their environment as the prerequisites to their pursuit of happiness. As college students we have a decided advantage over less educated folk in eliminating those inner obstacles to our pursuit of happiness. In sallying forth to eliminate these inner barriers one of the first items on the agenda should be a critical analysis of our purpose in getting a higher education. From our observations of college students we have concluded that a frightening percentage of them have perverted senses of values. From a revelation of their dreams and aspirations we have further concluded that they have entirely missed the point of getting a liberal education. This percentage of students considers a Bachelor's degree only in terms of how many thousands a year can be earned from the possession of it. It may not be too far fetched to assume that some college professors get Doctorates for the sole purpose of adding to their earning power. It is still true that we live in a capitalistic society in which the "almighty dollar" has considerable influence; but this is true only because society itself has perverted the values and in-

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In keeping with the current season and the recent successes of the "Mighty Eagles," the Quizzer has asked this question: Do you think that the Eagles will soar to a 1948 C. I. A. A. Football Championship?

Mrs. Bessie R. Jones, Petersburg, Virginia:

"Well, I'm hoping. I think there are possibilities. We have excellent material and a swell coach. All it takes now is a swell cooperation of teammates, cheering squad, dining hall, and the student body."

Larry Coleman, Montclair, New Jersey:

"I believe that this year is going to be a great year for our North Carolina College Eagles. Having been on the football squad, I have seen and participated in the daily workouts of our boys from the Delaware victory to the South Carolina State victory, and after those defeats last year, I don't think the Eagles will be defeated soon. Our boys need a lot more school spirit to bring home the C. I. A. A. Championship, for our boys have the toughest games yet to come. What about it students?"

Miss Marjoh Jacobs, Clinton, North Carolina:

"The Eagles have started the season off with a bang and, if their spirits are kept high, I believe that they will defeat any team this year."

J. Alphonso McKoy, Fayetteville, North Carolina:

"A winning start has given the team and school a great spirit, plus a more power-packed line with newcomers. Since our backs aren't jinxed by injuries, I expect the Eagles to fly away with the CIAA Championship."

William H. Thomas, Baltimore, Maryland:

"This, I believe is to be a great year for the North Carolina College Eagles. So far, this year I have seen school spirit and cooperation that is to be envied by any school. If we, the student body, continue to support our team, I feel sure the C. I. A. A. Championship will be ours in the end."

Miss Edith Lee, New York:
"I think the Eagles will win the CIAA Championship this year because we have a stronger team, and because I'm pulling for them one hundred per cent."

Paul McGist, Camden, South Carolina:

"If the Eagles continue to show the power that they have exhibited in the past games, there can be little doubt that they will win the championship." z

James G. Jones, Durham, North Carolina:

"We of North Carolina College have joined our forces in unity and strength; therefore, we have nothing to fear."

Student's Forum

Dear Editor,

Youth knows no satisfaction. We have already gotten accustomed to seeing the new faces and greeting the old flames and what not around the campus. A far as rules and regulations go, our opinions are divided. We must respond favorably to some of them but why must we go to Womens' Meetings so often? Can't we be reminded once a month of those same little things that somehow always keep coming up?

Besides being constantly probed toward our ever-constant memorandum, we have other problems. The girls in Rush Hall aren't given a chance to socialize because they are watched as if they are in prison. There need not be any partition between the office and reception room because all eyes are looking and all ears are open.

Grievances are not only among the young women, but the young men as well. The girls admit that the fellows look real sharp in thin coats, ties, and shirts but for the sake of athletes and

happy-go-lucky fellows, give them a chance to sport those mad blazers and zipper shirts.

Now for the entire student body, I am compelled to mention the seating arrangement in the dining hall and at assembly. We should like to feel free to have more choice in our seating arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,
PATSY KINCAID

Pekoe Avenue
Durham, N. C.
Sept. 24, 1948

The Editorial Staff of the Campus Echo
North Carolina College at Durham, North Carolina
Dear Editor,

To have become a member of the Student Association of North Carolina College was indeed a pleasure.

Relative to the September issue of the Campus Echo, I wish to thank you for the welcomes which were expressed individually or through the vari-

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Poem Of The Month

The Editors of the Campus Echo are sponsoring a "Best Poem of the Year" Contest. Students who have a flair for composing lines of poetry are urged to send them to the Campus Echo. The best poems will be published once a time in this column each month. At the end of the year, the poems will be judged by a faculty advisor and prizes will be awarded to the author of the best poem. — The Editors.

The world is so important to
The youngsters of today,
That sometimes it must seem to
them
That they are here to stay.

They strive for pleasure and
success
With all their hearts and souls,
Beyond their earthly goals.
And nothing matters much to
them
But we who watch the sun go
down
And long to have our rest,
Are not so much concerned a-
bout
The ordinary quest.
We understand that everything
Belongs at last to God,
And we are only visitors
Who cultivate the sod.
We know that we are only here
To help the world go on
And try to be deserving of
The everlasting dawn.

DID THIS EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?



KEEP YOUR CLOSETS CLEAN

The Campus Echo

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