Wilmington Morning Star

North Carolina's Oldest Daily Newspaper
Published Daily Except Sunday
By The Wilmington Star-News
At The Murchison Building
R. B. Page, Owner and Publisher

Telephone All Departments
DIAL 2-3311

Entered as Second Class Matter at Wilmington, N. C., Postoffice Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Payable Weekly Or in Advance

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1943

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.

—Roosevelt's War Message

Our Chief Aim

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete Victory.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Many people are willing to believe regarding those things that seem probable to them. Faith has nothing to do with probabilities. The province of faith begins where probabilities cease, and sight and sense fail.

—GEORGE MULLER.

—V—

Never Mind The Turkey

Because of a late hatch, heavy government buying for the armed forces and a shortage of slaughterers, the supply of turkeys for Thanksgiving is from one-third to one-half less than last year. Many a junior will go without his customary drumstick, many a sister the wishbone and dad and mother their usual portions off the breast when the family gathers at the festive board.

But the absence of turkey and its delectible fixings need not mean a glum Thanksgiving. The significance of the day is not wholly gastronomic. It reaches further than that. The sheer joy of being together, where it is possible for families to assemble in wartime, and of knowing that God is still in His Heaven, despite the efforts of the Hitlerites to destroy His world, are enough to fill hearts with thanksgiving.

Also, the comfort of awakening the following morning without a tummy ache is worth looking forward to, and will more than offset the sacrifice involved in going turkeyless.

All is not yet well with the world, but the day of peace is not so far ahead we cannot well afford to be patient—as the Founding Fathers were when they set aside one day to give thanks for their presence in the land they were finally to reward with freedom.

—V—

Save Waste Paper

Donald M. Nelson has turned to the American newspapers to put across a new waste paper campaign. Mr. Nelson need have no doubt of their assistance.

The American press is no less interested in furthering the nation's war effort, whether it be in raising money through bond sales or the conservation of any material, than any group, business or industry. This was proved when newspapers, at heavy expense and unlimited space, conducted their crusade for scrap metal when the steel industry was hard pressed to maintain the necessary production. They are ready to do what they can to assist the collection of waste paper.

Now, if Mr. Nelson will use his great influence to reduce the wastage of paper by government itself, he will give substantial aid to the campaign. Surely he can understand that it would be far better to save paper than have it wasted in great quantities, as is now being done by federal agencies, and be put to the trouble and expense of gathering it up for reprocessing.

There is enough paper delivered to newspapers in bulletins and directives that go directly into waste baskets because nobody has time to read them or ability to solve the puzzles they contain, to go far toward overcoming the shortage.

There is another phase of the situation which could well hold Mr. Nelson's attention. It is the continuing and increasing reductions in the amount of newsprint made available to newspapers. Unless a halt is brought to this the nation's newspapers will have no space to devote to the promotion of the paper salvage campaign, to say nothing of essential news.

—V—

The Truth About OPA

The report of a congressional committee headed by Representative Smith of Virginia concerning Office of Price Administration policies and practices is peculiarly interesting to Wilmingtonians because of current OPA activities as a result of which certain grocers accused of violating ceiling prices are summoned to answer before a hearing commissioner.

One paragraph from the report puts the case with exceptional clarity and ought to serve notice on the agency that Congress, no less than the public, will not endure much longer its high-handed domination. The report charges:

> The Office of Price Administration has assumed unauthorized powers to legislate by regulation and has, by misinterpretation of acts of congress, set up a nationwide system of judicial tribunals through which the executive agency judges the actions of American citizens relative to its own regulations and orders and imposes drastic and unconstitutional penalties upon those citizens, depriving them in certain instances of vital rights and liberties without due process of law.

It is inconceivable that Congress intended to give OPA any such powers as it has usurped. It would be inconceivable to believe that Congress, with the Smith report before it, and with the evidence uncovered by its members among their constituants during the recent recess, can consent to any continuation of OPA's unconstitutional processes.

If Congress did so, it would set aside its responsibility to the people to enact laws for the people's protection. It would acknowledge that it is impotent to safeguard the public against fascism.

Wilmington is having a demonstration of just what the Smith report cites as typical of OPA practices. There are OPA agents in the city going from store to store searching for ceiling price violations and issuing summonses with a free hand for violators to appear before a commissioner chosen from among its own personnel or in lieu of appearance to close up shop for an indeterminate period of time, in which case the charges would be dropped.

Clearly this is an unconstitutional procedure.

In the first place an OPA Hearing Commissioner has no Constitutional authority. And in the second, the agent of any tribunal, legal or not, has no constitutional authority to compromise with an offender. If he does so, he compounds the offense. Quite as clearly, the OPA for all its denseness, cannot but know that to induce a merchant to close up if for only a fortnight is to drive him out of business. Furthermore, the tenor of the summons indicates the OPA has little respect for the Common Law, which declares a man innocent until he is proved guilty, and inclines to count him guilty until he has proved his innocence.

Now, the common sense procedure by OPA investigators would be to find evidence of deliberate intent to defraud before dragging a grocer before a Hearing Commissioner, whose own status under both Constitutional and Common Law is questionable, and unless such evidence is found to help him correct his errors.

These investigators ought to know that not one man in a thousand can understand, much less interpret, OPA directives, which are as contradictory as the fancies of adolescence. Instead of holding a big stick over store keepers they would play a much better part in these difficult times if they brought aid instead of threatening punishment.

We have no thought of defending willful violators of ceiling prices, but we cannot remain silent when many mistakes pounced upon by the OPA investigators are due to the inability of grocers to know what the OPA is driving at when it reverses itself as often as a pendulum.

The Smith report adds that the OPA "has developed an unauthorized and illegal judicial system . . . and such intricate and involved administrative review machinery that litigants are completely bewildered by the maze of procedure through which they must wander to eventually arrive at a court which will grant them only crumbs of relief." The truth of this is being demonstrated in Wilmington today.

—V—

Reich Housing Shortage

An interesting sidelight on the effect of Allied bombings in Germany is revealed by Dr. Robery Ley, head of the German labor front. Germany is face to face with as great a housing shortage as any American war center.

Some 2,000,000 rooms, providing for 6,000,000 Germans, have been destroyed, requiring a great shift in population and an equally great emergency housing program. Doctor Ley, writing in Angriff, sums up the measures being taken to meet the housing situation, showing:

1. Since the start of the war 450,000 new homes have been built.
2. 100,000 dwellings are being reconverted from offices back into homes again.
3. 100,000 unfinished dwellings are being completed.
4. Hundreds of thousands of utility bungalows are being turned out.

This indicates that the Germans are working at top speed with their reduced facilities and if the war were to end today might meet the housing need. But the war is far from over and Allied bombings will be going on for a long time to come.

As they continue and more dwellings are destroyed, it is obvious that the German people will have ample time to learn the full significance of Goering's lie that no enemy plane should ever cross the German frontier.

—V—

R. O. T. C. Inspection

However desirable it is that the world agree to lay down arms and all peoples dwell in peace, it is apparent that for a considerable time after this war there will have to be strong and efficient military forces, lest the conflict started by Hitler break out again and plunge us into another upheaval from which there could be no emergance.

This being so, it is gratifying to learn that Wilmington's R.O.T.C. unit has passed inspection with exceptional credit. These high school boys are maintaining the high efficiency which has always characterized the organization, as the report of the inspecting officer, Major A. D. Sanders, proves.

There is justification in this for the belief that as the years pass and new pupils fill the ranks there will be no deviation from this fine record.

On many of today's battle fronts former members of the New Hanover High school R.O.T.C. are doing their part for victory. With equal ability we may be sure succeeding units will perform the duties of soldiers of peace.

Fair Enough

(Editor's Note.—The Star and the News accepts no responsibility for the personal views of Mr. Pegler, and often disagree with them as much as many of his readers. His articles serve the good purpose of making people think.

BY WESTBROOK PEGLER

NEW YORK.—A recent issue of the Honolulu Advertiser contained a small and, apparently, for Honolulu, commonplace, news item concerning civilian absenteeism which should interest all of us. It said that Capt. John F. Wickhem, provost judge, had made it "perfectly plain to defendants charged with absenteeism yesterday in his court that he would not be lenient on offenders."

The Advertiser then named 13 men who had been sent to jail for terms of from 20 days to two months for this offense, eight of whom were fined from $100 to $150 in addition. Five got straight sentences of two months without fines. One got two months and $150. In the other cases, the fines were suspended but the men were sent to jail, six of them for 30 days and one for 20 days.

The story does not say by what authority a military officer could impose these penalties for refusal to work but presumably that authority has been established and recognized, possibly because Honolulu, in the light of Dec. 7, 1941, has been identified as a combat area. Similar action has been taken by American military authorities in other war zones in Africa and the south Pacific against civilian sailors for shirking duty and other misconduct.

The commanding officer in Honolulu is Maj. Gen. R. C. Richardson, the very model of the West Point soldier, who served a tour as commandant of cadets at the Military Academy and who is known in the Army as Nellie Richardson for the reason, I believe, that he is so very precise, proper and strict. He is noted for his tenacity as well, which expressed itself not long ago in a conflict between the military authorities which he represented and upheld and the civil authority represented by a federal judge. I lost track of the controversy but believe the settlement was postponed, like the trials of the general's predecessor and of Admiral Kimmel, until a less crowded hour. I have an impression, however, that General Richardson did not lose the contest.

Incidentally, for any light that it may throw on the present case, six of the 13 different absentees bore Japanese names and some of the others, at a guess, would be Filipinos.

That may be insignificant, however, because there is a large element of citizens and other residents of Japanese blood and Filipinos.

The man who sent the item described himself as an officer of the regular Navy who was present during the attack on Pearl Harbor and who has not been home to the mainland since the war began. He wrote approvingly of the sentences and indicated a conviction that war workers at home who go out on strike are no better than these 13. In this he only voiced an opinion which has been expressed in other letters from men of the Navy, the Army and the Marine Corps in combat areas since John Lewis struck the coal mines last spring. They may not know the law, the issues, or the fine points of unionism but they are living under military compulsion themselves and in constant danger and they are, to understate their feelings, impatient.

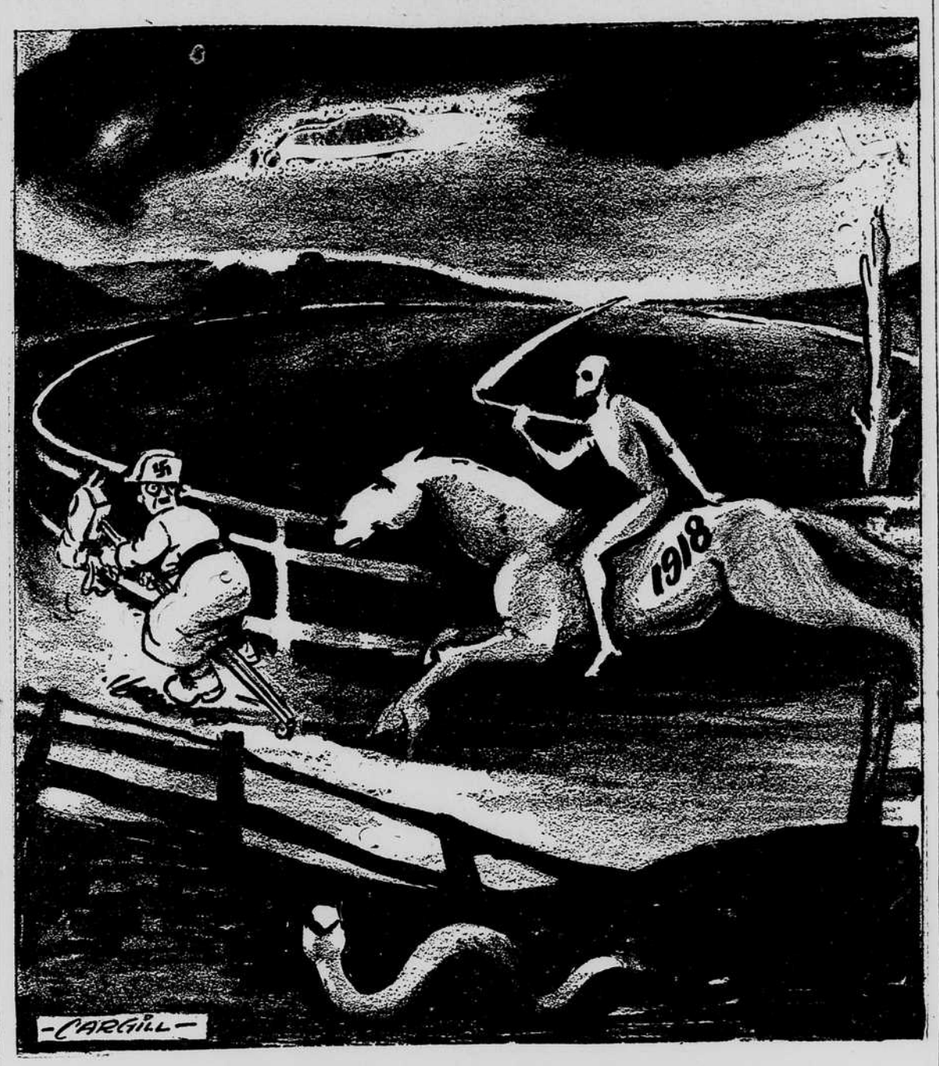
It would be absurd to suggest at the present stage of the game that similar proceedings could take place against strikers in war production jobs on the mainland if only for the reason that strikes are so commonplace and strikers so many. Nevertheless, meanwhile, an indirect approach to compulsion has been made at home under the terms of various job-freezing orders and through arbitrary lists of nondeferable occupations. This procedure is no more legal than the method used in Honolulu but it is less startling because it has been indirect. In many cases, too, it has had the incidental effect of forcing ostensibly free men to pay tribute to unions for permission to work at jobs designated by their government, often as the alternative to military service. Union leaders, it may have been observed, have approved this compulsion for this reason.

Possibly the Honolulu cases approximate fascism but it is worth remembering that fascism in Italy was the counter-revolution against an aggravated condition some elements of which have already made their appearance in the United States in the temporary absence and political voicelessness of millions of the most patriotic and vigorous citizens of the republic.

—V—

We haven't really begun to make any sacrifices in the United States as yet. In contrast to what I've seen today our little annoyances and sacrifices at home seem small indeed.—Treasury-Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., from Italy.

"THE RACE TRACK"



Raymond Clapper Says:

The Government Faces New Manpower Problem

WASHINGTON. — The government is facing a new kind of manpower problem. Its nature is suggested by the fact that Charles E. Wilson, executive vice-chairman of WPB, wants to return to his business as president of General Electric.

His case is one of dozens. Hilland B. Batcheller, a steel executive, wants to be relieved as operations vice-president of WPB in order to return to his private business. In the important second and third echelons of the government war agencies are many high grade executives, industry specialists, men without whom the conversion to war production could not have been done so successfully, who feel they must return to their private businesses.

This is a most difficult kind of a prospective manpower shortage to deal with.

For instance, Charles E. Wilson resigned his position as president of General Electric, and gave up a $175,000 salary for one of $8,000 in the government. He has been here about a year and has been the sparkplug especially of the airplane production job during that time.

Production is well up over 8,000 a month. Wilson's achievement in heavy bombers is one of the most gratifying production jobs of the war.

These war production men here feel their major work is done. Most raw materials are now produced in abundance beyond war requirements. In fact some conversion back, or into other lines of war work, is going on.

Wilson has been with General Electric 40 years. It is a gigantic company. When conversion back to peacetime takes place, a tremendous job of management will be required, taking everything that an executive like Wilson can give it. His General Electric job now is filled by Gerard Swope, who was called from retirement. Although Swope is an elderly man, he pitched in and kept up the schedule of visiting three General Electric plants a week, the same as the bounding younger Wilson had been doing. It is a heavy strain.

Dozens of other big industrial concerns will need their executives back for the conversion period. For this is bound to be much more difficult than was conversion to war work.

Seventy per cent of industrial production has been turned into war. That was driven by patriotic pressure. There was no sales problem. The government was the single customer. It knew what it wanted. It helped provide the materials and even the labor. The whole operation was underwritten.

But it will be something different to get back into civilian production, to locate materials, to get sales organizations developed to compete in the market successfully, to apply inventions and technical advances to civilian goods.

But it will not be easy for the government to lose all of its skilled industrial brains. Conversion back is a difficult government task also. Will the least efficient war manufacturers be dropped first, and the efficient ones held on to provide the remaining war equipment? That seems logical from the government's point of view. But that only gives the least efficient manufacturer a chance to get back into peace production and out to the customers while the more efficient manufacturer is held to war work. It penalizes the most efficient producer and he may have difficulty in ever regaining his place in post war competition.

To whom is the government going to give priorities for materials? For there probably will be need to continue control for a time. But for how long will be another question.

Bernard M. Baruch is staying on to make policy in these matters. But he can't do the job alone. Perhaps new industry committees will be his answer, but even that will not make it possible for all businessmen to leave the government.

—V—

You're Telling Me

MOTHS, according to Factographs, have been found flying over the ocean as far out as 1,000 miles from shore. Tracking down, no doubt, some sea captain's overcoat.

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The optimist thinks of a snowfall in terms of flakes—the pessimist in terms of shovelsful.

! ! !

A post-war planner's "castle in the air" most likely will turn out to be just a transport plane filling station.

! ! !

Zadok Dumkopf says Diogenes had a soft snap trying to find an honest man. For a real test, says Z. D., old Dioge should have tried to find a department store Santa Claus that looked like Santa Claus.

Inside Washington

WASHINGTON. — Military observers in the capital are convinced that the present "island to island" campaign in the Southwest Pacific will end with the successful conclusion of the current MacArthur offensive.

Once the last Jap strongholds in the Northern Solomons, New Guinea, New Britain and New Ireland are cleared, the real test of American and Allied strategy will come.

The United States and United Nations high commands then will have to decide in which direction to concentrate their next major blows against the Rising Sun. There are two theories on the matter:

1—Gen. Douglas MacArthur's idea is to drive into the Phillippines, possibly to the southern island of Mindinao, and thence northward to Manila.

2—Once the Navy has enough aircraft carriers and ships for a large scale movement, it probably will want to strike into the heart of Japan's mandated islands.

If MacArthur should have his way, the Navy would have to put powerful naval forces under his command to carry out his military ideas as he sees fit.

However, Navy men have made no secret of the fact that once the South and Southwest Pacific campaigns are over, the war against Japan will be largely a "Navy show" with a Navy man directing the operations.

The House Ways and Means committee, which originates all tax bills, has adopted the dodge of not taking record votes on tax proposals. The unconcealed purpose is to prevent the public from finding out how members vote on tax increases.

It all began when Rep. Donald H. McLean (R.) of New Jersey, was publicly mentioned as having voted to increase the liquor tax from $6 to $10 a gallon. McLean squawked at a secret session of the committee, complaining bitterly that the liquor interests of his state kept him on the telephone half the preceding night.

Chairman Robert L. Doughton (D.) of North Carolina, also was irked, feeling that some committeeman had been discourteous to him by taking the liberty of disclosing how McLean voted. Doughton made all committee members vow to leave public announcements to him.

Subsequently, the chairman refused to reveal how members voted in rejecting a general sales tax, despite an unprecedented letter from reporters demanding the information. The reporters insisted secrecy violated the democratic principle of accountability of elected officials to their constituents.

The committee held a hush-hush confab on the matter but stood firm behind Doughton. Then it developed that the group was not taking record votes to make doubly sure that the "ayes" and "noes" of its members are kept secret.

Newsmen in Washington got a "break" on the recent announcement of the Moscow pact.

OWI Director Elmer Davis and Censorship Chief Byron Price squelched an attempt to "censor" the United States press. Oddly enough, the "censorship" proposal came from their American reportorial colleagues in Moscow.

The Moscow reporters, feeling that they ought to be allowed to write the final climactic chapter to the conference of foreign ministers, asked for seven hours' leeway to transmit their stories and also a stipulation that if the news was picked up in transition by German radio, no United States paper would use any story which the Nazis might broadcast.

Davis and Price promptly turned thumbs down on the latter idea at a conference with Acting Secretary of State Edward Stettinius.

Moreover, it was agreed to release the stories simultaneously in Moscow, London and Washington three hours after reporters in those cities were given the text of the agreements.

—V—

As Others Say It

MICKEY'S AMOURS.

Hollywood reports have it that Mickey Rooney, youthful movie star, who married a North Carolina girl and recently divorced her, is comtemplating another matrimonial venture. The same report has it that the young woman mentioned by Rooney as his prospective bride, empnatically denies the engagement, saying that she would not "take him from a Christmas tree", or something to that effect. We don't know what her name is but at least she is a "girl after our own heart," if those are her sentiments.—Kinston Daily Free Press.

—V—

A REMINDER.

The late Nikola Tesla, the wizare of electricity, said one day in an interview: "Statesmen everywhere are promising us a new and better world but in the midst of the gunfire and the slaughter and the grief, let us remember that every kind of progress is a novelty but every kind of novelty is not progress."—Philadelphia Evening Bullitin.

—V—

ANOTHER UNION SUIT.

Organized laundry workers in the west are refused a court injunction. But what's another lost union suit, among so many?—Raleigh Times.

—V—

INFLATION RUN RIOT.

It was 20 years ago that the German government finally decided to withdraw the paper mark from circulation and substitute a new stable currency.

At the time of the substitution the paper mark was selling at the fantastic price of 420,000,000,000 to the dollar, a purely "metaphysical" value.

It has been charged that the German government deliberately engineered the destruction of the value of the mark as a postwar fiscal policy Be that as it may, the inflation that brought so much distress to the German people after the first world war set an example which no other nation in its right mind wants to follow.—Greenville, (S. C.) News.

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"We Followed Our Hearts To Hollywood," by Emily Kimbrough (Dodd, Mead; $2.50).

You remember "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," which was the quaint story of a trip abroad, undertaken some years back by Cornelia Otis Skinner and her friend Emily Kimbrough. You also may remember that this book was a thumping success, that it was bought for Hollywood, and that its two authors were engaged by Paramount to work on the movie script. The information was bruited about the Hollywood columns at considerable length.

Well, when the work out there was done Miss Skinner was hired for a part in another picture and Miss Kimbrough went home to her children, her poodles, and all the rest of her menage. She had nothing to do but keep house, so she wrote the facts of her Hollywood life down, and these have added up to a book called "We Followed Our Hearts to Hollywood." It's a grand job, probably as funny as the trip abroad, and strangely interesting for another reason. The reason is its somewhat glorified, but I suspect accurate, picture of what really goes out there.

When the innocents arrived in Hollywood they faced a battery of news cameras willingly, only to find that the cameras were awaiting Joe Louis, not Skinner and Kimbrough. Their apartments at the hotel were magnificent, suitable for wearing sables in—but the hotel didn't serve lunch, for which the guests went across the street to a drug store. At Paramount a most engaging carelessness obtained — there seemed to be no hurry about their job, their secretary kept herself hidden for days, nobody paid any attention to them, and for that matter, nobody told them where or how to draw their pay.

Emily found herself looming over the mountains of Bataan, by mischance, and a woman in a skirt made of mink was seen on the street. Cornelia developed an odd habit of taking out her chewing gum and throwing it away when she had anything important to contribute, and the script went forward, usually, by going backward. There were some incredible mixups, and yet somehow the script got itself done. Later, as seems usual, most of it was thrown away. And Emily liked it all—she went back as "technical adviser" for the shooting, in fact.

Daily Prayer

FOR AUDACITY

Thy word, O Lord, has promised that "the people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." We crave the fulfilment of this word in ourselves. In Thy name and strength, we would do daring exploits—exploits of valor, exploits of ingenuity, exploits of audacity. Deliver us from a passive mood of life, and from a mere defensive attitude. Let us not be content with small service. Grant us heroic hearts, that press the war on every front at home and abroad. We thank Thee for the exploits of our brave men in action. Put into the heart of every service man, and of every war worker at home, a consciousness of Thine enabling power, in the confidence that we are fighting for the goals of God. Save us every one from the sin of slackerism. Enable us to serve with the courageous patience which keeps on keeping on, ever vigilant for new opportunities to do exploits. Ths we pray in the name of the heroic Christ. Amen.

—W.T.E.

—V—

The man at the next desk says his alma mater's football team was so terrible this year, the coach probably will award it letters in lower case.