

THE TAR HEEL

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE athletic association has appointed a committee to consider the advisability of making the election of the assistant editor and the assistant business manager of the Tar Heel a matter of choice by the general athletic association and not of appointment by the editor and the business manager of the Tar Heel respectively. This has been done on the contention that the association has not enough power in appointing the editors of the paper and the managers.

Speaking from the standpoint of the editor we would like to make a few remarks. In the first place it is claimed that the athletic association ought to choose the assistant rather than the editor. Why? As a matter of convenience for us we would be glad for the association to choose this assistant this year. However we believe such a choice would not be for the best interests of the paper. It is contended that the editor virtually appoints his successor when he appoints his assistant. It is true that when an editor appoints his assistant he gives that assistant an advantage over whatever competitors he may have by giving a great deal of experience. However the athletic association always has it in its power to reject the assistant. The final choice is always with the association. If the assistant has not made good he may easily be rejected. The assistant simply gets the advantage of more experience.

Which is better qualified to choose this assistant editor the former editor or the general association? As we see it, no man in college can be so deeply interested in the Tar Heel as the editor of it. No one can better know what qualities are needed in an editor. No one will seek so diligently to find the proper man for the place. Then why not let him choose his assistant? The chief objection we believe is that there is such a chance for personal considerations to play the ruling part. Is there a better chance for this in the editor's making the choice or in the athletic association's making the choice? As a general rule the editor of the Tar Heel is neither a fool nor unprincipled. He generally has sense enough to know the best man for the place and principle enough to appoint him. When a man becomes editor of the Tar Heel he has always had a year's experience in the work of the Tar Heel. He knows other members of the editing board and he knows which are the most promising. Practically no good men fail to get a chance to become members of the Tar Heel board. As the

man then who knows more of the inside facts and who is most deeply interested in the welfare of the paper why should not the editor appoint his assistant?

On the other hand suppose the general association elect the assistant. Three fourths of the voters have not spent so much as a half an hour in thinking about who is best suited for the place. Furthermore they do not know what is required of a man to make a good editor. Then how can their selection be a good one? Voting in ignorance as they are, the man who is most popular will get the job. No more injurious thing could happen to the paper. As you choose a baseball player because he can play ball so must you choose an editor because he is a journalist. Popularity has never yet written editorials. Again the action of the association is always the thought of a day or two at best. The editor makes his choice after a year's meditation and search.

To sum the case up the facts present themselves to us in the following light. The editor is the best prepared man to make the choice. The choice of the general athletic association must practically rest upon the popularity of the candidate. The only objection that can arise is that the editor is ruled by personal motives. We believe this criticism cannot be made of the editors as a rule. Practically every editor has principle enough and backbone enough to choose impartially. Then the proper man to appoint the assistant is the editor. The athletic association always has the real power of election. This, it seems, is safeguard sufficient.

We make these remarks thru no personal motives. The choice of an assistant by the association would be a temporary convenience for us, but we believe it would be dangerous to the welfare of the Tar Heel as a working principle.

Now that the new engines are running well at the power house and some order has been regained out of the chaos of the first of the year can we not possibly have the benefit of three or four 16 candle power lamps judiciously scattered about among the buildings of the university? We speak with authority when we say that the third floor of the south building is as dark at seven o'clock as the blackest dells of Battle's Park ever gets to be at midnight. Those mighty rafters that line the walls of the passage on this same third floor have edges or corners as keen as the blades of some knives and as hard as many a rock. And 'tis unpleasant to run full tilt into one of these posts when one is not prepared for such a contingency. And the president of the Y. M. C. A. has been heard to swear a mighty "Land of Goshen" when such an accident happened to him. Then just a little light please thrown into dark places.

THAT the chapel exercises have become most interesting to the students and are no longer boringly compulsory is witnessed by the fact that some one actually broke open the door one morning last week and came in to the exercises. Everything was running smoothly and all the students were intent on the words of the speaker. Suddenly there comes a smashing, tearing crash from the senior entrance. No senior of course would be guilty of such a thing. At once the thought comes to our mind, a freshman or a law student. Some one tip-toes softly up the steps. A law student. Upon the rostrum all is offended dignity but in the pit the giggling is audible. A law student forcing his way into chape to hear that abomination, the daily exercises!

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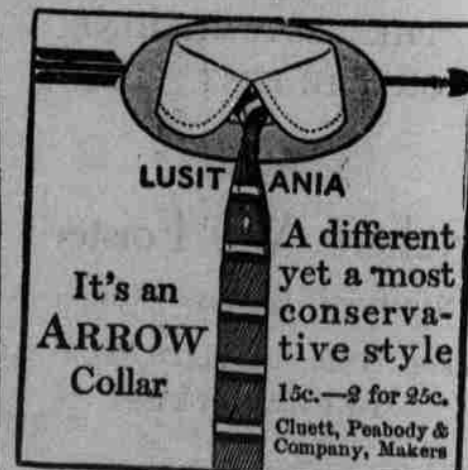
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