

# THE TAR HEEL

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE student body has shown decidedly that it wants a student council at the head of the honor system. In addition to that, it wants an understanding of what the duties of the council shall be, so that the present situation may not be repeated. It seems that the matter is now in a fair way of being settled, and it is to be hoped that an understanding will be reached on those points which have been in dispute. To consider the advisability of a constitution embodying the rights and powers of the council, a meeting of the student body is to be held Monday night. Before that time a committee of representative students will confer with the Executive Committee on the subject. It is the duty of every student to attend that meeting and to think beforehand of this question: Is a constitution desirable? A constitution will specify the duties of the council. This would seem to be in its favor. On the other hand, the student body of the University is constantly changing. New conditions will arise, which may not be foreseen and provided for in the constitution. Is the requirement for a definite outline of the honor system and its administration sufficient to warrant a constitution which shall be followed to the letter? Is that the only way or the best way in which an understanding can be reached? Can the honor system thus be reduced to an outline? These questions are important and mean something to the future welfare of the University. They should be carefully considered, pro and con, by every student.

It was hoped at one time that the fine opportunity which we have for developing class track teams would appeal to many men in the University who are not engaged in other forms of athletics. Coach Cartmell was to give the candidates for the class teams careful training; and, as if this were not sufficient inducement, prizes were offered to the winners. But the men are not turning out as it was hoped they would. The coach does not think it necessary, of course, to waste time in the effort unless a sufficient number of men will come out and show themselves in earnest about the matter. It is especially important that some men from the freshman and sophomore classes begin practicing, for they are the men on whom we must depend largely for the Varsity track team. If they begin now, it will mean a better start for them next year and a better team for the University.

It is surprising that more men have not been attracted by this opportunity.

Track athletics, so far as a physical and mental developer is concerned, has all the good points of either football or baseball. More than either of these games it develops the capacity for independent and self-reliant effort, for the success of each track event depends on an individual and not on a team. Men who are not qualified physically or do not wish to play football have a fine opportunity to develop themselves on the track and possibly to make good track athletes. No expensive equipment is necessary. The only capital required is just enough for a suit of the scantiest proportions and a pair of spiked shoes. That project of getting out class teams should not be allowed to fall through. But it must, unless something is done within the next few days. Some good men have already been out, but the number has fallen off in practice. It is urged that they come out for practice regularly, and that others who are willing to work will also come.

RECENTLY a college publication raised the question as to the amount of work done by the average college student. The question is as vague as questions about "average" things are likely to be. Still it is suggestive, and no less interesting as a subject of speculation than if accurate statistics could be had. Are college students as a rule seriously interested in the work which is supposed to be the main object of their being in college? We do not mean to ask whether they are tied down to their work, hand and foot, and unable to get out and enjoy a game or a walk in a whole-hearted way. There are some such men, but they are few. The question we raise is, are we interested primarily in the supposedly main task before us? Or do we work a little, incidentally, between spells of loafing, discussions of athletics, and cards? As there are men who take all the attitudes we have mentioned it would be difficult to find out just what kind of fellow the "average" college student would be. We are far from believing that an interest and a participation in athletics are incompatible with good, effective work along other lines. On the other hand, we believe that the best students are either athletes or men who have a live, real interest in athletics. But it is equally true that many college students, who do very little in, or for, athletics, become so completely immersed in the events of the football and baseball seasons as to lose sight of everything else.

On what he describes as the tendency of college students to neglect the "circus for the side-shows", Pres. Woodrow Wilson has the following to say:

"The real work of the college, the work of its classrooms and laboratories, has become the merely formal and compulsory side of its life, and a score of outside issues, grouped under the term of 'undergraduate activities', have become the vital, spontaneous, absorbing realities of nine out of every ten men who go to college.

"The side-shows have swallowed the circus."

"Amusement, athletics, the zest of contest and competition, all these are wholesome stimulants for the undergraduate, but they should not assume the front of the stage where more serious and lasting interests are to be served. The college is meant for a severer, more definite discipline than this; a discipline that will fit men for the contests and achievements of an age whose every task is conditioned upon some intelligent and effective use of the mind, upon some substantial knowledge, some special insight, some trained capacity, some penetration that comes from study, not from

natural readiness or mere practical experience. \* \* \* The side-shows need not be abolished, but merely subordinated"

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