

The Daily Tar Heel

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Saturday, September 28, 1929

Tar Heel Topics

Welcome, Wake Forest. We'll do anything for you but bet on your team.

"Hoover to Enforce Dry Law"—headline in Josephus Daniels' *News and Observer*. Mebbe—but that's a mighty big job, old timer.

The weather man reports that a tropical hurricane, which was due to show up in Florida yesterday, is lost somewhere on the Atlantic. That's one lost article that nobody is going to be very anxious to find.

An Over-Complicated Rushing System

Yesterday the fraternity rushing season officially opened. We advisedly employ the term "officially," for it is an open secret that a number of Greeks have assiduously courted the favor of certain shining prospects since the quarter began, and long before. Indeed, campus gossip has it that one fraternity pledged approximately a dozen men before they graduated from high school last spring.

Drastic changes were made in the rushing rules last spring; the new system is undergoing the acid test at present. Theoretically a period of silence during the first week or two is highly desirable. It gives the freshmen a breathing space, an opportunity to adjust themselves to their strange new environment before the hectic fortnight of rushing begins. Without this initial period of silence new men are prone to lose their sense of values under the false adulation heaped upon them by the pledge-seeking brethren. But theory and practice are usually widely divergent in fraternity rushing.

Frequent infractions of the initial period of silence have occurred, as was to be expected. It is indeed difficult to enforce a ruling so drastic in intent. When a person is forbidden by any form or regulation to resist from engaging in conversation with a friend of long standing, infractions of that regulation are extremely likely to occur.

Another of the new rules dictates that a freshman who rooms with a fraternity man cannot be pledged by any fraternity until the beginning of the winter quarter. Many upperclassmen have been forced to undergo the great inconvenience of changing rooms when, through no fault of their own, they found that they had been assigned a freshman roommate.

There is little doubt that the new rushing rules are desirable from a theoretical standpoint, but they have greatly complicated an already over-intricate system. Cut-throat competition

is practically inevitable when two or more fraternities make efforts to pledge the same man. The credulous rushee will likely join the group which spins the most grandiloquent web of illusion around itself and makes him the most fabulous promises, while the intelligent freshman will be able to perceive the true worth of the fraternity despite the smoke-screen spread by the members.

Our own opinion is that the net result would be substantially the same if all restrictions on fraternity rushing were abolished. At least the frat men would be spared a tremendous tax on their imaginations from their efforts to invent new methods of contravening the rules.

Pedagogy
A Contrast

(John Mebane)

Back in the old days when men wore sideburns and saved money on Gillette razor blades the methods of teaching differed greatly from the methods used at present in American schools and colleges. The teacher of thirty or forty years ago is usually visualized by the present generation of students as a tall, monsterlike creature brandishing vigorously about him a supple bunch of peachtree branches and vociferously demanding penitence for sins of unpreparedness.

This picture, conjectured by fancies of youthful brains, is, no doubt, suffering from excess of colour. Yet, it should not be denied that methods used in our colleges today are less rigorous by far than those of bygone, perhaps better, days. Present-day professors of pedagogy insist that the student, in order to learn, must, in some fashion, be interested in what he is taught. Modern maidens and lads, in order to become interested, must be entertained. So, many of our professors of today are taking out of their courses most of the work, the drudgery of it all. The student is given, usually in class, certain facts and points of significance which he should know. As for further investigation of these facts, no need. There is little drilling in the modern classroom. Professors propound; students sleep—sometimes snore. Not that students today are less intelligent than those of day before yesterday; but they have not been trained to think as quickly, to piece puzzles together by themselves, to crawl cautiously through pages of reference books.

There are, however, some professors teaching in our schools who cling to the old system, not cognizant of the fact that their pupils' minds are no longer storehouses of facts. These men succeed in awakening the student to the realization that there is, perhaps, something lacking in his training.

Dean Hibbard Offers
A Suggestion

A painful yet deserved thrust was made at the student life here at the University of North Carolina when Dean Addison Hibbard, speaking to the juniors at their smoker Wednesday night, declared that there is not a single intellectual issue to which the student body, as a group, is alive. The dean's statement came rather unexpectedly; nevertheless, it is causing some—we daresay many—students to ponder over the question: Is there, or is there not, an issue? And again, is an issue worth while?

At any rate, Dean Hibbard suggested as a solution (or at least an aid to the solution) of the problem an extensive survey of local university life to be carried on by the students themselves. The Junior Class, which at this premature time

has as yet taken no action, was appealed to for initiative in the matter of a thorough and understanding investigation.

We, at first, were rather skeptical of the idea. Little is ever accomplished by committees of students working on seemingly impossible projects in broad, general fields. But on second thought we have changed our opinion. Such a survey as suggested above was made by a senior class of three or four years ago, and the suggestions for improvement contained therein proved to be of tremendous value to those who were interested in settling vital campus problems. Considering such, there is no reason why an investigation of this sort should not be helpful at the present time.

If the Junior Class does not take up the project, some other group should realize the potentialities that may lie in the idea. Whether a survey would bring forth fruitful results or not, it is certainly a worthwhile experiment.—B. C. M.

The Campus

By Joe Jones

With some boys entering the University membership in a fraternity is a foregone conclusion. With others non-membership is a certainty. Some are on the borderline.

One type of the latter are those who get bids, really desire to become members, but are financially unable. With them it is a question of the wisdom of becoming a frat man and paying frat fees with sweat-earned, or even borrowed money. This becomes a vital question with many boys. They want like the dickens to be a frat man, but they just don't see where the money's coming from. Borrow it? Is frat membership worth that? Are the fellowship, prestige, etc., enjoyed by a frat man worth paying borrowed money for? How can the boy decide?

On the campus are upper-classmen and faculty members who have been through this trial. Some of them borrowed the money; others relinquished fraternal aspirations with regret. Looking back now how do they feel about it? Did the former get their money's worth? Do the latter still have regrets? Of what worth is frat membership to a man after his college days?

According to the opinion of Dean Hibbard it is "unthinkable to borrow money to join a fraternity." Especially does he think this to be true on this campus; he adds, however, that "at another institution where fraternities dominate more, it might be more worthwhile." Quoting Dean Hibbard: "After college days are over fraternity membership means very little to a man unless he is in college life. Fraternities can be either a good or a bad influence, depending upon the time and the chapter. One year the influence may be good, another year it may be bad. Except in very rare cases, in ten or fifteen years after college membership means very little; though while in college it may be very real to a student."

Secretary R. B. House says, "Fraternities are fine things if one can afford them. If I had to make the decision myself I wouldn't borrow the money. The fineness of a fraternity is a permanent thing through a man's life; its practical value after college is overestimated. The chief value is its current value; that is, it gives a man opportunity for social and per-

sonal enjoyment; it increases the amenities of social life on the campus, and does it throughout life in that respect. I don't think there are any serious dangers connected with fraternities. It is, however, rather disappointing sometimes to see boys overestimate what they call 'making a frat', and how they let up in their college activities after they become members. It is more disappointing to see how some boys take the fact that they don't get a bid. I don't think fraternities justify the vanity on the one hand or the uneasiness on the other.

"A man shouldn't accept a fraternity bid if he is hard-pressed for funds," is the advice of Dean Bradshaw. He continues, "Most brand-new freshmen sadly overestimate the importance of fraternity membership, and the farther a man gets from his freshmanhood the less he values membership in a fraternity."

A St. Clairsville, Ohio, dancing pavilion banned bare-legged women and men without neckties, asserting their appearance on the dance floor discouraged business.

FOOTBALL
TODAY

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—Tell it on—

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Greensboro, Sept. 26.—Latest figures at the registrar's office at North Carolina college indicate a larger student than that of last year. The number at the present time is larger than that of a corresponding time last year.

The count indicates a registration of 1,813 girls, 920 of whom are former students. Two hundred and sixteen are rated as commercial, 90 as transfers and 553 as new freshmen, a term which distinguishes the new regular from transfer and commercial students.

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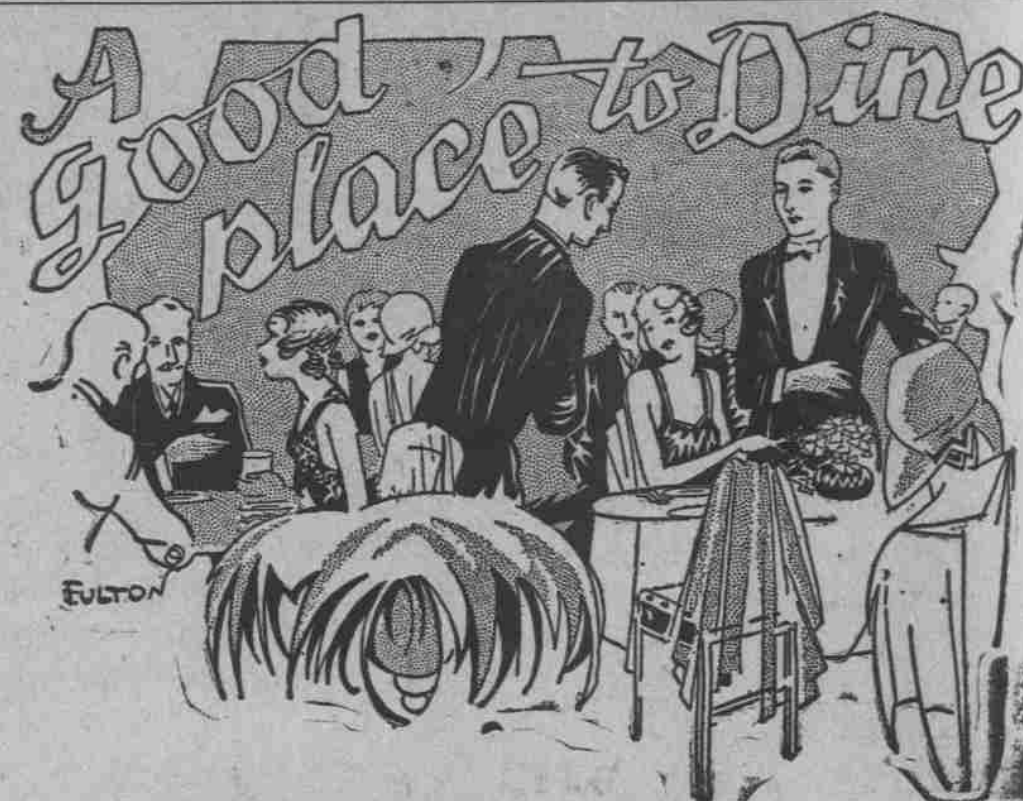
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