

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tuesday, March 3, 1931

**We Cuss Them
But They're Good**

Comprehensive examinations were administered to the senior class Saturday. For a week they furnished a sure topic of conversation almost any time if there were seniors present. For another week we hear more of them and then quarter examinations will become uppermost in the minds of the seniors.

Wherever the conversation the comprehensive was likely to be "cussed." We didn't cuss because the examination was unfair or too hard or because we didn't like it. We just hated to have this spring weather and a week-end interrupted.

Comprehensive examinations are to us a step forward in educational development. If administered with any thought for the educational value a comprehensive examination will determine just how much a student has derived from nearly four years of higher education. Surely one cannot dispute that examining in this manner is unfair. We are supposed to absorb something in our study here and what we absorb will be revealed by these examinations. They embrace far too much territory to allow "cramming."

After all, what we've learned or absorbed here will be with us long after we graduate or finish. If we haven't learned anything in our major field then the comprehensive will reveal it. One who hasn't learned enough to be able with a little review to stand successfully the comprehensive shouldn't be too critical of the University's methods of educating us.

**A Great
International Club**

We all enjoy that delightful time of day when we sit back in an easy chair, and listen to the



Playthings, presented at the Playmakers Theatre on Saturday night, February 28.

By Tom Loy

Anthony Buttitta's comedy of illusions in three acts turned out to be the most gripping experiment of the local dramatic group's current season. An atmosphere of completeness pervaded the production and tended to lift it from the amateurish class toward something of conviction.

As the story goes, a flesh-and-blood couple whose martial relationship has been analyzed rather unflatteringly in the super-staged prelude are prompted by it to do a little analyzing of their own, which amounts to destruction. As Cecil and Sonia Ingram they are husband and wife who get along quietly always alone and never seek to make friends. This unconventional behavior arouses the curiosity of the dramatist, one Mr. Stanley Busch, who dogs their daily-perambulating footsteps long enough to come to the conventional conclusion that it must be jealousy. So jealousy he makes it in his play, which he executes with weirdly stylized fidelity to the situation as seen through his self-appointed-tinker's eyes—even going so far as to call the piece "Intrusion" and to introduce himself as the orienting damnation in the lives of his subjects.

This attempted expose comes so close to the truth that it upsets the lethargic Ingrams and sends Cecil in haste to get what satisfaction there may be out of calling Busch a liar and demanding an explanation.

Ingenuously, for the sake of the parallel and also for the sake of technical simplicity, we are told that the set for "Intrusion" was modeled after the Busch study, so everything is—so to speak—in its proper setting when the demi-play comes to

bunch in a bull session about the happenings of the day or the week-end. In many cases the events are exaggerated grossly or in detail but this fact doesn't keep them from being enjoyable—probably more so than when they actually took place. This end-of-the-day bull sessioning is being done a great deal lately by the leading current news magazines. It is a very enjoyable and profitable feature of their news as a rule.

In the March number of one of these current periodicals there appeared side by side a review and a comment upon the work done by the Hoover administration and the Boy Scout movements. About the first we will make no comment—knowing quite well that the Democratic Party as a whole and *et toto* is taking care of comments upon that topic in a very comprehensive manner. About the Boy Scout movement, we think that even the sophisticates which abound on the campus of this University might do well to think about a minute.

Twenty-five years ago Sir Robert Baden-Powell started a movement which we think is destined to become of great international significance. He could hardly have fully realized what great good he was doing. At the International Scout Jamboree boys of every nation come together, forget tariffs and gold movements, and make close friendships. Sectionally, in every country, the good that scouts do is very great also. The juvenile courts of the United States have records of very few scouts which have been brought

life in the second and third acts. And come to life it practically does. The Ingrams turn out to become the real playthings of the author, undone when it dawns that the husband has really made a puppet of the wife with his reclusive tendencies. The only discrepancy between the first and second hand versions of the tragedy comes in the reason for the niggardly social attitude. Cecil's shell-building is found to be motivated, not by fear that the world might take away Sonia, but by fear that the world might find out certain irregularities regarding his birth that pride would hide.

Some of the passages of "Playthings" could have been more economically phrased, perhaps, but their verbosity has the merit of giving great emotional possibilities to the actors, whose neglect in the foregoing review has been only because newness this time made the play more than ever the thing; for a carefully-selected and drilled cast gave it a surprisingly finished interpretation. Harold Baumstrone, who did the author, was in character and convincing, though his tendency to bear down on prepositions and articles sometimes annoyed. He should be heard from in the future. The husband role was taken by Whitner Bissell in his smooth, irrefragable, past-demonstrated manner. Opposite him was Eve Brickman, who might be modestly termed a find. Her engaging stage appearance and the pleasant timbre of her voice, added to the fact that she can and did act, constitute a challenge for the Playmakers to attempt things bigger and better than ever.

Only a man who knew his theatre could have used ordinary, available materials to mount and present "Playthings" in the imaginative—yes, delightful—way that Walter Grotyohann, the director, did.

before them. The natural tendency of the normal boy is to "join a gang," and the scout movement sees that great numbers of them join the right gang, and thus get a great number of lives started right which would very probably otherwise get sidetracked before they were really begun. Scouts have definite stimuli for their ambitions and their accomplishments are definitely measured with others of their group. What better training could the youth of a nation begin with?

As a movement for the building of men, citizens, and gentlemen, we think that this great international club has no equal and should be recommended for its purposes and actions almost without limit.—O. W. D.

**Alfred E. Smith Makes
Plea for Governmental
Reform In This State**

(Continued from first page)

three hundred million dollars this year, thus showing the need for simplifying the government. There were over one hundred and fifty commissions, which were reduced to seventeen. There were four commissions on prisons, three on the soldiers' bonus, and three on the state fair. Among other abuses in New York's government were: The land tax, the governor's responsibility to petty commissions, the system of excessive taxation, and the election of irresponsible persons to heads of important departments which should be appointed by the governor. Ex-Governor Smith emphasized the fact that a state constitution cannot be reformed by statutes but by con-

Amaze a Minute
Scientifacts — by Arnold

MAN AND DOG are the only two animals which have adapted themselves both to arctic cold and equatorial heat.

"OLD FAITHFUL" NO LONGER
The most famous geyser in Yellowstone Park formerly spouted every sixty minutes but now spouts irregularly every hour and a half, probably due to decrease of water supply.

A THUNDERBOLT COULD JUST WASH CLOTHES
Steinmetz computed energy used by washing machine to do a week's work was equivalent of a great thunderbolt, whose power is tremendous but for a brief period only.

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stitutional amendment.

Smith concluded his speech by saying that the state of North Carolina had a wonderful opportunity to take first rank among the states in govern-

mental reform. He made a plea for progressive leadership, for clear thinkers, and constructive and broadminded statesmanship. Smith's address was broad-

cast over WPTF, and was received by a specially constructed loudspeaker in Gerrard hall.

Mention The Daily Tar Heel when buying.

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