

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tuesday, November 17, 1931

No Future For University Per Se

No hope for a better University of North Carolina can be entertained until the patriotic legislators of the state stop playing leap frog with the secondary and primary institutions on their way to the state house in Raleigh, where, after they have arrived, they faithfully carry out their campaign promises to cut education to the fundamentals — "Readin', writin', arithmetic, and religion." In the paring the state is saved many a penny, which, if invested in genuine education, would have returned dollars in prosperity due to increased ability and foresight.

Democracy as an ideal is the most beautiful thought ever entertained by man, but it is and will always remain little more than a noble experiment, and none too noble at times. When fanatics, and demagogues lay their hands upon educational systems, progress in civilization inevitably becomes static. Education, whose right hand men are at best soft-spoken and peaceful, and often incompetent in other fields than their own, is an easy prey to the ambitions of ignorant, malicious, inefficient, and selfish politicians who are willing to sacrifice the welfare of ten or twenty years in order that they may seat themselves in political power, leave off actual work, and be able to magnify their own despicable egos.

Impartial, permanent boards selected in the manner that the supreme court of the United States is chosen must have absolute control of educational policies before education in the primary and secondary stages, and in not a few collegiate levels can be anything other than travesties.

Tax Reduction

For sometime an abolition or a minimizing of county government in this state has been advocated by those persons well acquainted with the present waste incurred by such a system. It is quite evident that with one hundred county gov-

ernments in North Carolina there are a considerable number of useless county offices, which could easily be combined in half the present number.

In his talk Friday night at the Junior smoker Lieutenant-Governor R. T. Fountain took the stand that politicians have always taken on this question — that county governments should be retained because they are much more democratic than any other system. Well aware of the fact that so many county governments cause a great deal of useless expenditure, the politicians are afraid to advocate a change for fear of the political power that county governments now hold. Rather than reduce expenses in this branch, the politicians advocate reductions in higher education knowing that students and educators are unable to give them any strong opposition on this issue.

The public always demands decrease in taxation, and in order to be elected, candidates run on platforms which favor tax reduction. There is a chance for an exceptionally large tax reduction in this county branch of government. But the candidate is yet to appear who has nerve enough to advocate this reduction which he knows will cut expenses, yet which he fears to run on because of the thousands of county politicians throughout the state.

To advocate reduction in expenses of higher education before cutting these county government expenses is lamentable. It is self-evident that politicians often advocate tax reductions not thinking what effect such cuts will have on the welfare of the public, but rather what effect they will have on their possible election.—C.G.R.

The Staff Heroes Are Made Of

Americans as a people have often been derided for their gullibility and susceptibility to false imagery. We too quickly erect pedestals for the hero of an hour, regardless of his status prior to the ascent from the rank and file of the great unknowns. A man of the soil whose "I. Q." is lower than Steel one day finds himself a county hero because he was able to husk one more ear of corn an hour than his nearest competitor; a little girl who, perhaps unwittingly shields her baby sister from the wild bullets of gangsters or who jerks big brother from the depths of a mill pond, is the recipient of hundreds of letters from perennial hero worshippers, and soon school children contribute their pennies for a gold medal or a statue to the new hero of the hour. Perhaps it is the fault of the sensational daily press and human interest-seeking reporters with an itch for a by-line, but nevertheless it is a trait firmly embedded in our society.

Recently in a metropolitan city, a magnificent statue was erected to a sled dog which had led a string of huskies across the frozen wastes with serum for a disease-ridden town. Hardly had the pigeons begun to roost on the new statue when it was discovered that the whole business was a gigantic hoax, perpetrated to test the gullibility of the public.

Perhaps this spirit has been an influential factor in the deplorable lack of youthful up-and-getting geniuses, who are furnished with little commendation for worthy achievements, but are forced to sit back and see the asparagus-eating champion or the flag pole king occupy the limelight.—D.C.S.

Little Politicians

A study of the national debt will reveal the fact that although both state and national debt incurrence has run into

more than eight figures, the heaviest debts have been incurred by local governments in the United States of America. If it is possible to gauge national prosperity at all by the size of our national debts and by their apportionment then it seems to follow that our local governments are in the hands of weak, near-sighted, unintelligent politicians. In both the state legislatures and our national congress we have men who, it must be admitted, do not as a rule boast of extraordinary acumen or understanding yet they do, generally speaking, contain men of more than ordinary intelligence and ability. This cannot be said of the politicians of our smaller governmental divisions. They are on the whole selfish, emotional, rough, soap-box quibblers who are far more interested in party and positions than in issues.

In England political aspirations are laudable. In the United States they are "pooh-poohed" or looked upon with contempt. There is something radically wrong with a situation where it is less than most commendable to achieve high results in political effort. It is possible that we have the key to an explanation of the general disregard into which politics has fallen even on this campus of congregated gentlemen of culture and wit. Local politics and even campus politics have fallen to such a low level that ego is above issue, and where individual is above cause. The rugged courage of Politician Patrick Henry, of Politician Woodrow Wilson, of Politician Benjamin Franklin was expressed in terms of issues and not individuals alone.

There is no paucity of issues today. If anything, there are so many that we have become suffocated and bewildered by them. Politicians on the campuses and in small towns, in the state and in the country would do well to espouse the causes of energetic truth, of excellence, of the general welfare, of social amelioration. What is needed is not stronger parties but stronger men who are lost in an enthusiasm for still stronger issues. On this particular campus there is a crying need for student political leadership in the field of liberalism, of cooperation, of effective and purposeful internal reform.

There is nothing inherently laudable or despicable in politics. It is a human necessity. But politics will be small and insignificant, yet imminently dangerous, if they be carried on upon the principles of self-interest and sentimentality. The challenge of making greater, more idealistic, more intelligent, more energetic and courageous politics, faces every active participant in modern affairs.—R.W.B.

Liberal Education

In *The Co-eds; God Bless Them!* Bernard De Voto offers as the sum and substance of liberal education in a person the ability to be "intelligently discriminating." In order to reach this ideal truly, one must, he says, be reasonably free from prejudice, one must evaluate facts on their face, and finally one must be receptive to new ideas.

We venture that the ideal modern college or university should give a liberal education to its students—certainly this is true for colleges of arts. This goal has been expressed in numerous ways. It has been said that the purpose of college training is to give the participants a greater enjoyment of life, or a greater appreciation of life's beauties, or any number of things, but all in all, it may be summed up in the words "liberal education."

In this world of machinery,

where persons, commodities, institutions, and thought tend to become standardized, a liberal education is needed to discriminate from extreme and impractical radicalism on one hand and reactionary, unprogressive conservatism on the other. The opinion of the crowd rapidly becomes known and accepted; and unless a person is alert mentally, he will find himself accepting opinion for axiom, theory for demonstration, and custom for truth.

A premium is placed by present day society on the commonplace, and originality is rapidly coming to be looked upon as undemocratic. The liberally educated man should question the validity of authority, should always be ready to listen to new ideas, however radically he may disagree, should be willing to see worth in thoughts other than his own or those of the crowd, and finally should preserve an even trend of mind, seeing all in their relation to those established truths which he has in his possession. If a college cultivates this attitude in its students, that college has succeeded in its ask.—P.W.H.

THIS WICKED WORLD

By E. H.

Up betimes, and out to breakfast at a coffee shop on the main drag where we partook not of the beverage which lent its name to the establishment but of hot chocolate and Melba toast. Dame Melba, much toasted in her day, gave her name not only to crisped bread prepared in a certain manner but also to a commercial product not so well known as it might be. She lived before her day. Oh, ye ponds and chesterfields! And with food and drink we fell to thinking of "our kinsman, Samuel Pepys," diarist extraordinary and amanuensis to milord Sandwich. Long has the controversy raged as to the correct pronunciation of Samuel's name. An English exponent of doggerel, one Ashly, Sterry, did untold harm by his lines:

*There are people, I'm told, some say they are heaps
Who speak of the talkative Samuel as Peeps;
And some, so precise and pedantic their step is,
Who call the delightful old diarist Pep-is;
But those I think right, and I follow their steps,
Ever mention the garrulous gossip as Peps.*

Wrong! The peeps have it! Milady Sandwich confirms. Be it so.

Still in a peysian mood we mulled over the happenings of Armistice day. The world was a little too much with us. The inaugural ceremonies were held in that concrete arena usually devoted to pigskin pursuits where there was a very great press of people. Inaugurations in their infrequency might well be likened to century plants for all that. But the event was thoroughly enjoyable despite the continual buzzing around of a multitude of stinging insects which vexed many persons considerably. Then to dinner where there was merry discourse as to who brought the best greetings and why. The gentleman from Toronto seemed to win public favor, though his colorful costume may have been partly responsible for that. And in the late afternoon the gleeful voices which filled the Hill Music hall were good to hear. Entirely unskilled in the musical arts, we judge music as Pepys judged a play: we either like it or we don't. We like it. And now we're off to see *Elizabeth, the Queen* which is this night at

Memorial hall. And it is, so they tell us, a goodly drama performed by stellar players.

LULLABIES

*Sing a song of football games
Hip flasks full of rye;
Four and twenty college boys
All got high.*

*And when the game got started
The lads began to sing;
With voices loud and lusty
They made the welkin ring.*

II

*Betty Co-ed sat in the drug
Cherishing a single hope:
That some fool lad would happen
along
And buy her a lemon dope.*

ARLEN STARS IN CAROLINA SHOW

Coincidental to Charles Starrett's role in "Touchdown," a Paramount vehicle showing at the Carolina theatre today, is his football career at Dartmouth, where he played full-back in 1924 and 1925.

Although he played in a few games in 1924, the year the great Green team went undefeated, he failed to make a letter because of a knee injury. The following year he made a name for himself during the first three games, but was out the remainder of the season with a cut eye.

Richard Arlen as a coach who would not sacrifice a man's health to win a game heads the cast in "Touchdown." Other players in this picture which concerns America's most popular collegiate sport are: Peggy

Shannon, Jack Oakie, Regis Toomey, George Barbier, and J. Farrell MacDonald.

A number of All-American football stars play in the grid-iron scenes.

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