

The Daily Tar Heel

The official newspaper of the Publications Union Board of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where it is printed daily except Mondays and the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Holidays. Entered as second class matter at the post office of Chapel Hill, N. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price, \$4.00 for the college year.

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Friday, December 4, 1931

Education Made To Order

Educational systems grow out of and in response to the needs of the civilization that they serve. The Chinese educational system was developed to train mandarins who would be fitted to assume governmental positions, men who understood thoroughly the ancient principles of government, men who were sensitive to the meaning of the traditional poetry, men acquainted with the great history of the past. Chinese education was necessarily retrospective because the Chinese civilization was considered complete, mature, and already fully moulded. The cramming (to put it badly) system and the examinations calculated to test the perfection of this cramming were well suited to Chinese civilization. Egyptian education was developed to provide for the needs of Egyptian culture. Education in the Middle Ages was of a kind which trained only the proper individuals in the proper manner and was suited to life of medieval society.

The professional schools of the United States have grown out of the need of our modern civilization for expert technicians. So great is this demand that the function of the school of liberal arts is eclipsed by the more pragmatic, more apparent function of the technical and professional training school. One wonders why the liberal arts school exists, how it justifies itself.

An analysis of present society will show that the specialist is the man most in demand. In our economic order specialization rules. Among our professional men it is the brain surgeon, the criminal lawyer, the corporation lawyer, the orthodontist, who is most highly respected. Specialization rather than diversification is the vogue both in regard to style and regard to actual need. Even in the field of philosophy, which should have as its primary purpose the integration of all movements, all forces, all feelings, the tendency is not

toward wider and more comprehending knowledge and understanding, but toward, as some one has so aptly stated, "knowing more and more about less and less." A man is given a doctorate in philosophy on a thesis describing in childish terms the functions of a high school janitor. The paper made no attempt to describe the duties of a college, a bank, or a dormitory janitor, no, it was concerned with the duties of the high school janitor. A Ph.D. was awarded for this lucid bit of literature. Specialization rules the world today.

But there is a very real demand in this sort of a society for men with imagination, with broad culture, and with definite purposes. The liberal arts school endeavors to bring to maturity men of this sort. But men of this sort must have rare qualities of appreciation and creativeness in order to be classified as more significant than the average drug store philosopher. Does the school of liberal arts with the avowed purpose of developing men of creative ability and culture accomplish its purpose? Does the school of liberal arts give rein for creative thought and creative expression or does it discipline its students with the same techniques employed in the specialized schools?

In a civilization where specialization and mechanization tend to dominate our lives in every way, vocational, emotional, and intellectual, there is a great need for men who can rise above details, look as from a mountain top, conceive great thoughts, and inspire in those whose noses are pressed to their rhetorical grindstones an appreciation of the beautiful. Our civilization, just as the Chinese or the medieval, must bring into being a system of education which can satisfy this need. Is the school of liberal arts accomplishing this task? Is the school of liberal arts training men to culture, to creativeness, and intellectual courage? The answer is in the hands of our deans, our professors and instructors, and the students who are aware of what they want and seek to fulfill those wants.—R.W.B.

Dry Restriction Of Public Opinion

Our little political puppets in the House of Representatives in Washington are losing sleep over the looming prohibition vote in Congress. Up until now they have been able to straddle the issue, and the thought of having to declare themselves either on one side or another throws them in a veritable panic. After having fought all motions to bring the question before the house, the dry leaders boldly declare that they are strongly in favor of such a vote, finding that the rapidly increasing wet party cannot be kept under cover any longer. However, they qualify their enthusiasm for the prohibition vote by strongly opposing any referendum to the public at large.

The dry faction will doubtless win the Congressional poll; dry influences in Washington are too strong to resist at present. But the measure will have the effect of bringing into the light the true colors of the "people's choices." And when the next Congressional elections are held, the people will have the opportunity of saying how they feel about the subject for the first time.

The wets are having a tough time of it; they are having to fight against the cumbersome machinery of governmental procedure as well as the fanatical activities of the dry leaders. Whether the reader agrees with wet sentiment or not, the fact stands out that the anti-prohibitionists are striving to let the public express its opinion; the

prohibitionists are doing everything in their power to prevent this.

Whether a small majority has the right to tyrannize large majority is in itself a debatable point. But the right of the public to express its opinion is not even questionable. It is the foundation upon which all democracies are built. Therefore the faction which is striving to give the voters of the United States an opportunity to voice their opinions should be commended for its attempt to preserve the essence of our government even though the individual may not agree with the legislation that it stands for.

—W.V.S.

Booting And A University Education

A University is an institute of higher learning where one comes primarily to attend classes, pass courses, and receive a degree. But it is obvious that much more can and should be derived from four years in an atmosphere of culture and knowledge, such as we have at Chapel Hill. Much may be gained from extra curricula work in athletics, publications, debating societies, and other forms of student activity. But one of the finest and most beneficial advantages that a university can offer is contact with men who are devoting their entire lives to the acquisition and dispensation of knowledge. The relations that the college man or woman may have with the professors and teachers should form a large and important phase of a college education. These relations serve to awaken a deeper interest in the courses being taken, and a keener interest in the teacher presenting the subject. That much might be gained from such relationships seems undeniable, and some of the greater universities, such as Oxford and Harvard, are employing the tutorial system, which in many instances amounts to almost individual instruction.

While such a relation was at one time prevalent at North Carolina, it is falling into dishonor. This change of spirit is being brought about to a large extent by the inane and sophomoric attitude on the part of certain students, who regard with deep distrust any extra relation between professor and undergraduate as "booting." This quaint expression is the term used to describe the effort on a student's part to enhance his grade by fawning on his instructors. This is, no doubt, often attempted, but men who have been teaching for any length of time can easily discern between the real and feigned interest shown by the student.

There can be but little use of appealing to those students who militantly attack any extra relation between teacher and student as "booting." Those with higher intelligence will not be affected in any way by the unfavorable comment of their boorish fellow students. But there is a rather large and undecided element who would be, were it not for the attitude of the mass, thrown into greater contact with the faculty. By refraining from any affiliations with the instructor the student is losing much for himself, as well as injuring the faculty which has much to gain from contact with the student body. It is to be hoped that the more intelligent members of the latter group will join with the teachers in encouraging the bridging of a gap whose further enlargement means the degradation of the college spirit into one of an inferior grammar school.

—J.F.A.

As a general thing, when a young man is in love he thinks nothing is good enough for her except himself.—Dallas News.

"DIVERTISSEMENT" BY THE JITNEY PLAYERS



A scene from one of the "divertissements" between the acts of "Murder in the Red Barn," which will be presented this afternoon by the Jitney Players in the Playmakers Theatre. The same company of traveling players will appear in Moliere's "The Bourgeois Gentleman" this evening.

Value Of Fraternities

This revolutionizing the University of Chicago has succeeded in focussing the attention of the fraternity world on it with its recommendation and plans for the complete abolition of fraternities on its campus. Wealthy alumni have endowed the University with enough so that the building of dormitories with the "house system" is made possible, and the grouping together of students in a more or less compact group is the result. This is, of course, a direct physical comparison with the comforts and pleasures afforded by the fraternity houses with those rendered with these palatial new dormitories with the house system. This plan would finally lead to deterioration of the fraternities' stand on the campus. The big objection that is voiced against fraternities in regard to their harboring of cliques and their questionable value to the students' idealism. These questions have given room for considerable comment on both sides.

It seems certain that the position of the fraternities is in no way in danger as long as they continue to count among their number men who are outstanding in their work, their idealism and their unselfishness. Humans are decidedly gregarious. In any surrounding atmosphere of college whatever certain cliques will be formed. This will certainly be true at Chicago and is provided for, but the collection of one's choice companions into one house or section will certainly be difficult if not impossible, and the leadership of others and the idealism of the group will disappear entirely. Certainly the house system occupants will not be encouraged and guided so much as their fraternity brothers, either from national organizations or from local houses. Constructive personal guidance will be entirely lacking.

Certainly the cost to the student and the worry of maintaining an upright functioning organization will be done away with, saving both time and money to quite a large extent. This time and money would be spent on further book education. But along with this worry and extra expense would come the thrill of managing and making a success of a project, and, in some men, considerable executive skill is developed.

It seems evident that fraternities are here to stay. The personal contacts and the friendships formed among one's fraternity brothers while in college are valuable assets to personality and to knowledge that an education might give. Every fraternity man who has really

Lines of Least Resistance
By JAMES DAWSON

Under the influence of the new school of poetry, of which E. E. Cummings, James Joyce, and Gertrude Stein are voices, a young poet, as yet unjustly overlooked, has written the lyric printed below. A glossary, or an attempt at explanation being necessary, I have tried, with his invaluable aid, to compile one. Keeping in mind that the business of the poet is to express himself, and not to please his readers, the lover of modern American poetry will see in this verse the flash of genius and the promise of greater things. A volume of this poet's work is being collected. The poem below is the first ever to be printed.

Derek,
castazing his balloons,
caulturning skilward
with
Balloonman
in mind-
ward.
Shipstan
he eyecornerecapitulated,
sgladloom,
dastdown.

Glossary:
Derek: from "deck" and "derrick." Derek is standing on the deck of a tramp steamer.

Castazed: from "cast" and "gaze." He casts his gaze downward.

Balloons: from "breeches" and "pantaloons." He looks at the pantaloons made from old breeches of his father.

Culturning: from "culpable," "spurning." He blames his mother for making him wear them; he spurns her memory.

Skilward: from "skilfully" and "skyward." He turns his thoughts skilfully skyward to curse her.

Balloonman: he thinks of his trousers, which suggest Cummings' poem, "the queer old balloonman whistles far and wee."

Mindward: from "mind," "wind," and "windward." The balloonman is to windward, hence the sound of whistling.

Eyecornerecapitulated: regretting that he has left home, he catches sight, out of the corner of his eye, of—

Shipstan: the capstan in the bow of the ship.

Sgadloom: from "sad" and "gloomy." He is sad and gloomy.

Castdown: from "sad" and "cast down." He is sad and

Some Jazz Preludes for Winter

I
Winter,
and the morning is bleak,
with the raindrops
dripping from
the branches of the
wind
stripped
trees.
Listen to the crackling of the drops
on the dry leaves. Morning
is as sickly as last night's
Jest.

II
Clock
in the corner with its tick
tick ticking.
Seconds hit
the consciousness and
slide
like
rain.
Mornings after pleasure should be still
with a still peace. Not like
the clacking of a madman's
brain.

III
Twilight,
but the French have a word
that is better:
crepuscule
has something of its
rain
lined
dusk.
Paris is the place I ought to go
for the winter. Maybe
Paris wouldn't be so goddamned
dull.

Japan and China can't expect
Uncle Sam to bear the expenses
of their war until after he is
through paying European na-
tions for theirs.—Toledo Blade.

People who take cold baths in
the winter, says a specialist,
never have rheumatism. But
then they have cold baths!—
Passing Show.

R. R. Clark
Dentist
Over Bank of Chapel Hill
PHONE 6251

HERE'S one woman
who doesn't PAY!
And she laughs when
society brands her
"THE CHEAT"
with
Tallulah Bankhead
The gripping story of
a woman who dared
the fates, heroically,
for the sake of a
superb Love!
—also—
COMEDY — NOVELTY
NEWS
NOW PLAYING
CAROLINA

put some effort and work into his group is staunch in his support of it, and would testify that he would surely hate to spend his undergraduate days without the "lodge."—O.W.D.