

### The Daily Tar Heel

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Thursday, February 11, 1932

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##### The Source Of Power

Student government at the University, and we mean to imply by that term all the student officials appointed or elected, has insidiously and slowly swung away from a democratic frame of mind to one which is assuming aristocratic proportions in which the will of the entire group is many times ignored and in most cases never ascertained. All this has been done outwardly to promote efficiency. THE DAILY TAR HEEL takes this opportunity of arrainging this practice as being one of the chief contributing forces in turning the government of the student body into the hands of an all too small group, and creating an inertia on the part of the rank and file that does not question the practice to ignore student opinion.

First among the student agencies which should be most sensitively responsive to reasonable student desires, and even unreasonable desires if they come from a majority, are the student council, and THE DAILY TAR HEEL. The two agencies elsewhere in this issue announce new policies calling for more responsive administrations in which the voice of the student body will be more readily felt.

Once each year ambitious young men eager to acquire distinction for themselves don smiles a mile wide, speak to every possible voter with whom they come in contact, and join up with the right political frame-up. This is all well and good, but when these same men are elected there is too much temptation to stop speaking to all but the small group with whom the successful candidates associate, and what is most undesirable to ignore for the rest of their terms of office, either consciously or unconsciously, the source of their power. No official of University student government would feel for one minute that he is not responsible to the student body for every tiny act he commits. If

all such officials would consider what the best interests of their constituents are, and inquire among them as to their preferences, both the elected officials and the rest of the student body would be better citizens.

Student government and THE DAILY TAR HEEL recognizing that the student body is the source of their power lead the way toward a more responsive government, and call upon the Publications Union board, the Y. M. C. A., the class officers, the interfraternity council, the athletic council, the German club, and the Grail in so far as their activities concern the entire student body to express themselves on their willingness to make serious efforts to respond to the wishes of the student body, to ascertain student opinion before any action is taken, on important matters in which policy is involved, and to hold in mind the responsibility of each official and group to the student body at all meetings and every day of the year, rather than for three weeks prior to their election or appointment.

#### The Smith Blunder

After a laborious ten-year climb to the tottering peak of political supremacy, the Democratic cause received a rude bombshell in its midst the other day when former-Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York indicated that he would not decline the Democratic nomination for president, nor would he support his gubernatorial successor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the presidential race. Sentiment that Smith has severely disrupted the hopes of his party has been rife from Florida to Maine and back again, and the onetime "Happy Warrior" has been caught between a cross fire of political salvos, even from previous sympathetic corners.

George W. Norris, Republican leader from Nebraska, was quick to make the public prophesy that the Democratic party will "make a damn fool of itself and that the Smith statement is the beginning of what may be the party's defeat in an otherwise 'cinch' election. The staid New York Times inferred that Smith was suffering from a bad case of 'presidentitis' while its Empire State contemporaries alluded in similar terms to the 'amazing development'."

Our own conservative Raleigh News and Observer, a prominent southern champion of the Democratic cause, opines editorially: "... the Democratic party will not unitedly follow the leadership of Smith. Except in union of the party under a candidate and with a platform that will inspire confidence and support of disillusioned Republicans and that great host of independent voters in the country, there can be no hope of a Democratic victory." The Times, of the same city, believes that "the way seems clear for Hoover, who a month ago was lost in the ruck of the field..."

These comments are typical of the chagrin expressed by the once pro-Smith press, and generally indicative of the sentiment of political observers throughout the country. Coming at such a time it is particularly deplorable, for the ranks of Democracy, hardly cooled from their recent welding, are split anew and will be slow in regaining lost ground. Smith still has his contingent that would show no particular anxiety should he become the Democratic choice, notwithstanding the fact that he has had his day. Whether these supporters will back the alleged Smith-Raskob-Shouse combination to block Roosevelt is a matter for conjecture, but it is a certainty that Smith's power of veto over the selection of any candidate is lessened in a great degree. His action has not only

caused a rift in the party but it seems the beginning of the end of a dictatorship which Smith has held in Democratic ranks for nearly a decade.—D.C.S.

#### Examination Exemptions

For a good many years, the battle over the subject of final examinations has raged. It is generally admitted that an examination given to students at the end of three months work in a subject is not always a true criterion of that student's familiarity with the course. When a professor chooses four or five questions out of the material covered during so long a period, it is obvious that the element of chance must enter into the determination of the student's grade. If he has been fortunate enough to "spot" the questions, he will fare well; whereas if he is not so successful in the ever popular game of out-guessing the professor, the result will likewise be evidenced.

The abolition of these exams has long been advocated not only by the students themselves, but also by prominent members of the faculty. But such action is condemned by another group which considers it too revolutionary. Granting that sweeping changes do not always prove successful, we can combine the views of the two opposing factions and arrive at what appears to be a happy medium, by the institution of a system of exemptions throughout the University.

This experiment has already been put into practice by Dr. English Bagby of the psychology department and seems to have met with great success. Dr. Bagby deemed it advisable last quarter to exempt all students from the final exam who had maintained an "A" standing throughout the quarter. The

students were thus supplied with an incentive for hard work, and instead of being satisfied to expend only sufficient effort to earn a "D" or "C," set themselves about achieving the highly desirable goal.

This seems to be a movement in the right direction. Besides rendering a valuable service by raising the scholastic standards, such a system would do away, in a great measure, with all the evils attending the business of preparing for final exams. The good student under our present system is more concerned over the examination than the poor student since he is anxious to avoid undoing all the excellent work he has done by a poor showing on the final test. He has set a high standard for himself and is highly desirous of maintaining it. His fellow student who is not quite as industrious is simply aiming to cross the danger line by the slightest possible margin.

Does it not seem foolish that a student who has demonstrated his knowledge of a course be subjected to the rigors of preparing that same work all over again? Should not his daily work be sufficient justification of his merit? By excluding all "B" students as well, the system could be further improved. Those of us who feel that an "A" is slightly beyond our reach might be inclined to wage an earnest effort at receiving a "B" grade. A plan could be devised whereby those attaining an average of "B" secure an option on taking the exam. They could either exempt themselves and thus remain with a "B" as a final grade, or else take the exam with the hope of raising their grade to an "A."

Without going too deeply into the exact functioning of the plan it seems evident that it does

have great possibilities. Certainly it merits a trial; and what better place for its introduction than at the most liberal and progressive institution in the South?—S.H.R.

### The Low-Down

By  
G. R. Berryman

#### These Dopes!

Every Sunday afternoon in Chapel Hill there is given a picture show sponsored by a group of loyal churchgoers, the proceeds of which may be given to charity. One can legally buy admittance to this show. Every Sunday morning between church, one cannot legally buy non-alcoholic drinks. No church has a controlling interest in any of the drug stores.

#### Rest Peacefully and Sanitarily

Extract from a scientific advertisement in the Raleigh Times:

#### DAY OF UNDERGROUND BURIALS IS PASSING

In a vast majority of burials for generations nothing but a rough wooden box has been used as a receptacle for the casket. Knowledge of the rapid decay of the box and casket, and the repulsive conditions attendant upon interment under ground where no lasting protection for the casket has been provided, established demand for a more enduring depository...

When a burial is made in an Individual Mausoleum, there is a noticeably lessening of the sorrowful scene usually accompanying an ordinary burial where dirt is thrown upon the casket, for those who have gathered to witness the last rites know that in a brief space of time loved one is taken care of forever in a sanitary, clean,

and scientific manner. There is no refilling of the grave, no settling of earth and no additional expense to worry over.

These Modern and Scientific Tombs May Be Purchased Through Your Undertaker.

#### Classroom Pests

The bright student who, he thinks, knows more than the "prof" and spends twenty minutes of each period educating him up to his standard... the guy who is always asking unimportant questions... the gentlemen whose supposedly humorous remarks aren't... that person who habitually bums a cigarette from you each day after class.

#### Can It Be True?

It is told with good authority that a student visited the infirmary here with something really the matter with him, and that an accurate diagnosis was made, after which he was properly cared for.

#### Brief Facts

There are twelve thousand industrial plants in the United States that may be immediately turned to making munitions in an emergency.

The features of the American Indian on the "buffalo nickel" are those of Chief Two Gun's White Calf, chosen because the old chieftain represented the highest type of American redman that could be found.

Hunter college, the largest woman's college in the world, now offers over one thousand courses.

The number of murders committed in the United States during 1930, twelve thousand, was about seventeen times the murder rate of England.

The Chesterfield soloist  
ALEX GRAY



..and how he can Sing!"

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The Chesterfield Cigarette program... Every night except Sunday... Entire Columbia Network, coast to coast... 15 minutes of "Music that Satisfies."

Whether it's a tender old love song or a dashing hit from the latest show, there's the deep thrill of real music in whatever he sings. Hear his fine voice in the Chesterfield Radio Program. And hear Nat Shilkret, too, with his beautifully-balanced big orchestra.

Chesterfield