

The Daily Tar Heel

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Saturday, February 13, 1932

Intolerant Public

The state of Kentucky, an avowed foe of free-expression and liberalism, has struck another blow in the ranks of the defenders of personal liberty, this time through one of the state's educational institutions. Charles J. Thurmond, student editor of the Centre college *Cento* was removed from office Tuesday as the result of faculty action over an editorial entitled "Stupidity of Marriage" which appeared in the columns of his publication. The editorial, according to the *Danville News*, attacked marriage as "the stupidest of all institutions in existence today" and declares it "ends in wrecked lives and the casting of ugly blemishes on young lives having to come in contact with it."

While Thurmond's choice of subject which is a delicate subject for dissertation in the public press is not commendable or conducive to the sanction of his colleagues, his defense when removed from office is significant. "The constitutional bill of rights of the United States gives me the right to think on any subject I please. It further permits me to 'freely and fully speak, write and print on any subject,'" the deposed editor stated to interviewers.

Thurmond was dismissed, not for advocating the practicability of his theory, but merely for the publication of his thoughts on a question that has been opened to conjecture by many modern theorists. The first sin, if it may be termed such, is unpardonably reactionary in its implication, but the latter defies no ethical code or division of journalistic decorum. Thurmond's right to print anything within the bounds of decency is undeniable, but the question of whether or not his editorial was obscene is debatable. Surely, such subjects are not denied magazines and periodicals who print similar philosophic treatments of similar subjects.

The action, nevertheless, is indicative of the low ebb of intellectual tolerance which the state of Kentucky is experiencing to-

day. The *Cento* case is paralleled by the general treatment given to writers and exponents of free-expression by Constitutional rights, who invaded the strike areas of Kentucky recently to test their theory and administer aid to the starving miners. Their efforts met with harsh treatment and immediate incarceration on the charges of "disturbing the peace" and "disorderly conduct," followed by a wholesale ejection from the state. Public tolerance of the free press in rural localities is fast dying out and in its place resides fear and suspicion.—D.C.S.

Possibility Of World Peace

The crisis prevailing in Manchuria has received for the past several weeks the publicity and the comment it deserves, and Manchuria will doubtlessly and rightly continue to receive the attention of the governments, the public, and the young manhood of Europe and America as long as it remains a potential Sarajevo. Yet, notwithstanding the importance of the Japanese aggression both in itself and as a menace to world peace, an additional significance underlies the affair which has not been sufficiently emphasized. In effect, Japan's defiant determination to enhance her status in Manchuria, whether justifiable or not, reveals strikingly what not one but many Westernized, militarized Oriental nations will some day, in the not-so-distant future, be capable of doing—what Russia and Turkey are in large part capable of accomplishing even now.

To observers and travelers in the East the gradual but steady awakening of that section of the world has long been perceptible. Dissatisfaction, nationalism, and a realization of its helpless inferiority before Western machinery are serving to set into circulation the dormant energies of the Orient, and if in many regions the masses of the people still labor under the weight of age old traditions, those in authority, whether they be Shahs and pashas or Communists and Catnones Nationalists, see clearly and are acting with vigor if not always with immediate success. The expulsion of Amir Amanullah from the throne of Afghanistan, following his futile efforts to modernize his fierce subjects, is not typical; as a rule the people submit, even if they do so with as bad grace as that with which the nobles of eighteenth century Russia shaved their long flowing beards at the command of the zealously reforming Peter the Great.

As the East steadily assumes the mold of our machine culture, she is bound, by all the rules of ambition, common-sense, and self-protection, to govern her attitude toward her armaments by her knowledge of the huge military forces that now clutter the West and of the bitter nationalistic and economic rivalries that still prevail among us, rather than by the pacific and humanitarian sentiments expressed by our civil rulers. She is more apt to reflect upon the "scrap of paper" guaranteeing Belgium's neutrality and upon the Monroe Doctrine as applied on this side of the Atlantic, than to trustfully accept the validity of the Kellogg Pact and the power of the League of Nations.

If the faery Nippon pictured in Lafcadio Hearn's "Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan" has become within a generation the strenuous power that today flaunts its imperialism, one needs little imagination to speculate upon the future policies of communistic Russia, wholeheartedly dedicated to industrialization and world revolution, or of China, long subjected to foreign aggression and constantly threat-

ened by Russia and Japan, or of India, chafing under British dominion, or of Turkey, Persia, Siam, and the rest.

From all of which one probably emerges—that, if present circumstances persist, armed and industrialized Eastern powers will, with their presence, demands, and grievances, increasingly complicate the international politics of the future and give rise to numerous additional dangers to the peace of the world, even at present only precariously preserved.—K.P.Y.

Philippine Freedom For Selfish Reasons

Just as they have formally been deceived in the case of sugar, the farmers are again being hoodwinked into believing that a state of competition exists between Philippine coconut oil and domestic butter, fats, and oils which is injurious to the home product. Those setting forth this idea before the farmer strongly advocate Philippine independence so that a duty could be placed on our imports from that country, and thus alleviate the sufferings in our own country. Such a view does not bear the slightest element of truth, and should our farmers allow themselves to be deceived in this matter a most deplorable situation would result.

The truth of the matter is that coconut oil is not competitive with any fat or oil produced in the United States. There is no native product which will yield the necessary lathering and cleansing qualities to our modern types of soaps. These characteristics are obtainable only through the abundant use of coconut oil. By excluding this produce we would be forced to depend on much inferior soap from domestic ingredients, whereas if we place a tax on the oil it would simply cause the price of soap, and other articles which depend on the oil, to go up. Not only is the importation of this Philippine product not detrimental to American industry, but statistics prove it to be highly beneficial. Through the use of about four million pounds of coconut oil, over one billion pounds of low grade refuse oils and fats found in this country were made more suitable for use. Can the advocates of Philippine independence omit such facts in their consideration?

Besides being one of the constituents of soap, coconut oil is also an important ingredient in the production of confectionery and fancy biscuits. About one-sixth of the quantity which we consume is utilized in the manufacture of these products, and no material produced in our country could be substituted in this process. A duty would thus merely serve to raise the price of products concerned and would be of no benefit to home industry.

Such facts bring to light only two of the one-sided views propounded by groups who in all probability have some ulterior motive for such reasoning. There are several other points set forth by them which are equally fallacious.

Granting independence to the Philippine Islands at this time, would by cutting off our trade with them paralyze their industries, and then have the boomerang effect of causing loss to our own farmers. It is modestly estimated that by thus impoverishing the Philippines, the producers of cotton, daily products, meat, and bread stuffs in this country would be subjected to a loss of about fifty million dollars in the form of decreased exports. Wherein, then, lies the justice of such a move?—S.H.R.

When Japan gets the Chinese bandits all subdued will she be eligible for the Nobel peace prize?—*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*.

The Age Of Leisure

The age of leisure is coming, and it will be brought on by the multiplication of machines. What is needed is not fewer machines, but more. It is true that leisure is forced on some, but it is not to be thought that leisure is objectionable if it is accompanied by ample means.

The early laborer looked on machinery with an unfavorable eye, thinking that it alone was responsible for his unemployment. Such is not the outlook shared today by his more modern brother. He realizes that he owes his increased spare time to the advent of the machine age.

The time is fast approaching when machinery will do all our routine mental and physical labor. When such a millenium arrives everyone will be doing only two hours work a day, with the rest of the time free to be devoted to experimental and educational pursuits.

Dr. C. C. Furnas, in his book entitled *America's Tomorrow*, estimates that each individual in colonial times, on the average, had three slave-power units at his command. Now the average man has one hundred and sixty-five such units, and yet working time today is certainly not cut to three-one-hundred-sixty-fifths of that colonial period. It is evident that the arithmetic is sadly misinforming.

With so many labor and time saving devices perfected, and so many more yet to come, there is only one way in which to prevent unemployment, and that is to reduce the working-day. According to Dr. Furnas, some other field than physical labor must be found in which to employ man power. He says, "While some have nothing to do but sit down and waste away and wish for work, for the rest of us, the laboring hours are still too long. Then, when we do leave the manufacturing precincts, we spend all the rest of the time using mechanical things, so that there will be a market for manufactured articles, so we can work all day tomorrow. This keeps on until heart-failure or a misstep in traffic closes the account."

The guiding slogan of every industrial superintendent for years has been 'more production per man-hour.' Still, the campaign is only begun. Men and women should be saved for those places where judgement and brains are required. Most of the routine affairs of the world can be carried on by brainless robots, and why shouldn't they be? There are so many other interesting things for humans to do.—W.R.W.

Brief Facts

The George Washington Bridge over the Hudson River between Manhattan Island and New Jersey has the longest single span, 3,500 feet, of any suspension bridge in the world.

Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776, is the oldest Greek-letter fraternity in existence.

In Europe the per capita consumption of timber is nearly one-seventh that of the United States; and that of China is only one-sixth that of Europe.

Dried and ground mosquito lava from stagnant pools is being collected as food for aquarium fish.

According to a professor, the actual roof of the world is 70 miles higher than was previously supposed. Ambitious American architects are said to be altering their plans accordingly.—*The Humorist (London)*.

With Contemporaries

Out Of Date

In a recent article, Norman Thomas stated that few college students talk about anything of great importance. He believes they limit their conversation to parties, dates, football, and the like. Five years ago this statement might have been applicable. Today when college students are active participants in national and international organizations and movements Mr. Thomas' generalization seems a bit out of date.

Immediately following the war, similar conceptions or misconceptions of typical college undergraduates were prevalent. In newspapers and magazines, on the stage and screen, one would inevitably happen across the absent minded professor, the "hot-cha" collegiate who scattered his father's wealth with a lavish hand, the highly rouged co-ed, the pseudo-intellectual with horn-rimmed glasses, and the brawny, brainless athlete.

While everyone recognized these as being caricatures, they were nevertheless indicative in a general way of public opinion. And perhaps with some justification. But now the youth of the world, and especially the college student, is engaged in the serious business of house cleaning the traditions and customs that have been their legacies—war, international rivalry and jealousy, short-sighted patriotism, corrupt politics, dogmatic creeds. And while the new, forward looking undergraduate emerges, the old caricatures linger on.—*Syracuse Daily Orange*.

The Liberal University

A university which is truly liberal teaches students to think. It makes them alert intellectually, and graduates them mature and conscious individuals into a new, interesting and intricate life.

We desire to see the University continue the advance it has recently begun, so that some day it may attain to its particular fullness in the liberal ideal of an institution of higher instruction. It will have to avoid the form of a purely Utopian university which might place no limitation on the number of courses under instruction. Excesses of this nature in the ideal might finally expose it to utter failure. Consequently, the University must check the growth of such flaws by an intelligent reaction which will disperse weaknesses in student application, mind and utilize knowledge resources, and cut away the cataract which obscures student intellect.

Our new study-freedom weighted by its implied and defined responsibilities will eliminate those who have an innate lack of intelligence, those who are slothful in mental effort, and those who are indifferent to their studies. The University must next reach out and influence education in secondary schools so that the mass produc-

tion of high school graduates who are imitators, mental dwarfs, owners of dormant intellects and fact gourmands may be ended.

The University ought to rid itself of its flabby scholars, and take instead critical scholars who teach the student to ask and to answer not so much what but why. Thinkers do not demand recitation, they require analysis instead. Such men can be obtained today at less money and without any cost of that vanity, self-respect, for everywhere is going on an awakening and reorganization in education.—*Daily Illini*.

Helping Worthy Students

The restrictions placed upon the financing of the University of North Carolina and other state institutions reflect themselves in a peculiarly personal way in the circumstance that there were around 400 students at the former who, at the beginning of the second semester, faced the necessity of withdrawal on account of the stringency of the times, — boys who were working their way through college or who had made other temporary arrangements to finance themselves through an education.

It is a happy thought that when this news spread over the state, it produced an instant and helpful response, to such an extent, indeed, that many of these worthy collegians have been rescued from the necessity of giving up their educational pursuit for all times and numbering themselves at this time among the country's army of unengaged.

Alumni, interested citizens, institutions of one sort or another hearing of this situation and being touched by the pathos of the plight of so many of these enviably worthy young men, set themselves at once to the task of giving aid and these combined influences and alleviating agencies have resulted in the maintenance of a larger number of these self-help students at the University.—*Charlotte News*.

No doubt T. R., Jr., will have a successful administration in the Philippines. For one thing, he will not have to run against Al Smith.—*The New Yorker*.

H. G. Wells wants all the nations to have the same kind of currency, but we would be satisfied with some kind.—*Lynchburg News*.



AFRAID?
Certainly Not—
They Love It!

JEAN HARLOW
WALTER HUSTON
in
"The Beast of the City"

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Comedy
Review

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