

The Daily Tar Heel

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Sunday, February 21, 1932

Knowledge Or A Phi Beta Key?

Too much credit is being given college students for making good grades. Grades are good things when not prized highly. But when a large premium is placed upon them, they become precious jewels. Students pay more attention to them, and as a result put more time on making an "A" or a "B" than on doing research work.

The tangible things of life, the pupils seem to enjoy most, forgetting the fact that "those things that are unseen are eternal." They much prefer making a high mark—something they can look at and admire—to the unseen yet quite evident knowledge gained through intelligent reading and outside study.

In this mad rush for grades, the students study only those items which the professors are likely to ask on a quiz, or give on an examination. They fill their heads with bare, unrelated facts knowing that such knowledge will be required for the examination. Because of the scarcity of time allotted for the examinations the professors are unable to give anything more than a mere smattering of the courses. And in an attempt to cover the entire subject matter as best they can, the instructors make out brief questions which the students will be able to answer in the given time.

Securing a knowledge of these facts requires nothing more than doggedly performing the daily tasks assigned by the professors. No delving below the surface is required to find them, and no thought is required to express them. A machine-like mind that can grind off facts galore can make the good grades with facility. No thinking process is needed—merely a remembrance of facts.

In four years these machine-like minds graduate with high honors; they go out into the world and wonder why the facts so essential in college do them no good in securing a job. They had worked all along for grades and had paid no attention to research or extra study. Had their professors graded them on the basis of merely passing or fail-

ing with a "P" or an "F," or a probable "H" for exceptional work, these students would have thought little about the grades they were making. They would have forgotten what their "average" was for their courses. They would have forgotten how many more "A's" they needed to make Phi Beta Kappa, or how many more "C's" they could make and still wear the charm. Their sole interest would have been in the course work itself, in the research work, and in the parallel reading.

But good grades paid higher dividends, and the temptation was too great.—C.G.R.

The College President—An American Institution

According to H. J. Laski in a recent article in *Harper's Monthly*, the university president of the American type is an undesirable feature in academic life. He embodies too many powers. Rare, indeed, is the person endowed with the talent essential to the administering of all those duties imposed upon the college president. The average president can hardly be expected at one and the same time to be a skilful executive, a good judge of academic reputation, sufficiently aware of academic developments as to know which require financial emphasis, an effective beggar among rich men and a person of such standing in the general community as to win respect for the university by the public pronouncements he makes. Yet all these offices are filled by the president, for it is through him that the trustees receive their information and upon his advice that they act.

One important phase of the problem is the relation of the president to academic freedom. His policy is forced upon the other members of the faculty, for he holds the whip-hand. Upon him rests the power to promote or demote a professor. For this reason a teacher is unable to give true expression to the substance within him, and must "tread carefully in the approved path if he wants to be certain of moving upward in the hierarchy."

It is surprising that such a system should have remained so long in existence. This is due partly to oversight on the part of thinking men; partly to the inability of teachers to expose the conditions; and partly to the large number of presidents so strong in character as to fulfill their numerous duties admirably. The many weak presidents are obscured in the haze of glory surrounding such names as Eliot of Harvard, Hadley of Yale, Harper of Chicago, whose indelible stamp upon the intellectual life of American civilization seems ample justification for the system.

All men are not super-men, and it is unwise to impose the criteria of the majority upon the vast majority. The system is at fault that allows one man the control of many. This policy shakes the foundation of freedom. The division of duties would remedy the situation and allow presidents a greater opportunity to pursue more natural inclinations, thereby augmenting their contributions to the attainment of a more liberal standard of education.—L.P.

Alfalfa Bill in

William Jennings' Shoes

If history runs true to form, 1932 should see a great deal of impassioned oratory and fervid political activity. With every depression comes a horde of blazing-eyed, long-haired gentlemen who parade our land and with vigorous gestures and flaming words assert that the time is out of joint and that they were born of God to get it right. Our history has been full of these demagogues; Jackson, Ben Butler, Pitchford Ben Tillman, Sockless Jerry Simpson, Brick Pom-

roy, Ignatius Donnelly, and the great Bryan himself—men of all degrees of intelligence and all shades of honesty. The most successful demagogues, men like Jackson and Bryan, were entirely sincere and entirely honest. Many of the others have wished to capitalize on the discontent of the people arising from their economic hardships. But the one characteristic of them all is their subordination of thought to mere popular appeal. They are the ranters, the Flag-wavers, the Home-and-Mother boys, the Bloated-Plutocrat and Starving-Worker howlers.

Out of the tremendous suffering of these times should arise a particularly virulent crop of demagogues. We already have one notable example of the species in Alfalfa Bill Murray of Oklahoma. He has all the characteristics, the drooping mustache, the ostentatious plebeianism, and the nickname. Before the fall elections we should have many more of his kind parading the land and with impassioned speech setting forth everything from currency reform to communism as the immediate panacea of all our economic ills.

So far in America the country as a whole has rarely taken these men seriously. Not since the Civil War has any out and out demagogue attained to the presidency or to any office of great power. Bryan and Blaine, the silver-tongued orators, each spent a lifetime trying to reach the presidency and failed. Greenbackism and free silver were flatly refused by the people. Thus far those leaders of socialist and communistic thought who have tended to demagoguery have been treated more as jokes than as inspired leaders. Our much talked of common-sense has saved us time and again. As the elections of the next few years approach, however, the injustices of our present economic arrangement are so manifest, the suffering of the people is so intense that there is some danger that in the blind passion aroused by their misery they may be caught up by some powerful but thoughtless demagogue and force him and his policies upon the country. And it is a danger most carefully to be guarded against, for now above all times is sane and careful thought needed in the operation of our government.

However, the demagogues of the past have had a most beneficial effect upon the nation. The more powerful they become, the more the leaders of the substantial elements were forced to pay attention to their demands. If the reforms put forward by the insurgents were good, such as railroad control and the direct election of senators, the leaders of the regular parties were forced to adopt them as their own in order to hold their followers. If they were foolish, like the unlimited issuance of greenbacks and the free coinage of silver, the leaders were forced to think hard and fast and adopt some constructive policy which would remove the grievance and keep the country from turning to the ruinous proposals of the Weavers and Bryans. A powerful third party or insurgent movement today would probably do a world of good by forcing the leaders of our old parties to devote all their energies and thought to the solution of the pressing problems touching the welfare of the lower classes. A mighty demagogue like Donnelly or Bryan would drive the powers of the Democratic and Republican parties to swift and probably salutary action.

We must be on our guards today to see that the demagogues do not gain power in our country; but until they do, let them rave, and more power to them.—D.M.L.

With Contemporaries

Discredited Institution—Disgrace To the State

The University of South Carolina and other institutions of higher learning in this state will be dropped from the list of all accredited colleges and universities unless adequate appropriations are given them by the state legislature.

If such a thing takes place, it will be an everlasting disgrace to the illustrious old state of South Carolina. And such a thing is going to take place unless something is done about it immediately.

"Scores of boys and girls who seek to enter first-class colleges from South Carolina high schools would be refused admission because their schools had too small a proportion of teachers from approved institutions, if the reduced appropriations remain," stated Dr. Patterson Wardlaw, dean emeritus of the university school of education, in an address before joint session of the legislature Wednesday.

We see here that the reduced appropriations will not only result in disaster to the colleges and universities in this state, but also to the young people who expect to enter college. And it will bring shame and disgrace to the parents of these young people.

The education of the sons and daughters of the poor is the prime consideration of the educational policy of the state of South Carolina and of the state institutions of higher learning.

Of the total number of freshmen at the University of South

Carolina, thirty-four per cent of the men come from homes where the total income of the entire family is \$1000.00 per year or less. Fifty-nine per cent come from homes where the total income is \$1500.00 or less. Only twenty-one per cent come from homes where the total income is \$2500.00 or more. Seventy-six per cent say that their families cannot bear all their college expenses at the present rate. Many of them borrow the money to help to pay their way and others get work after school.

If the higher institutions of learning in this state become discredited, their diplomas will be worthless. It would then be no use for the sons and daughters of poor people to struggle to attend South Carolina's institutions. They cannot go out of the state for an education because of the lack of funds. Only the sons and daughters of the wealthy could do so. And most of them do this now.

A large percentage of the outstanding men of the state at the present time are men whose education would have been improbable if not impossible if the

state of South Carolina in the past had not adopted a policy of state supported colleges with a minimum of expenses to the student.

However, if the legislature and the people of this state wish to bring shame and disgrace to the state and to themselves, let them go ahead with the reduced appropriations and bring the colleges and universities into

(Continued on page three)

Brief Facts

The United States is both the greatest importer and the greatest exporter of copper in the world.

The word "and" occurs 46,227 times in the Bible while the word "reverend" occurs but once.

The United States Bureau of Standards has discovered three new kinds of sugars in the roots of dandelions, golden rod, dahlias, and chicory.

The 1931 wheat crop of Czechoslovakia was nearly one-fourth greater than that of 1930.



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—OTHER FEATURES—
Smith and Dale Comedy "Arabian Shiaks"
Disney Cartoon "Fishing Around"
Paramount Sound News

MONDAY



A Publix Kincey Theatre

It Must Be Seen to Be Believed!

Unbelievable people gathered from the ends of the earth to enact a thrilling drama of love and hate! No picture ever like it! As tense and novel a drama as the screen has produced!

"FREAKS"

with Wallace Ford Olga Baclanova
TUESDAY

SIDNEY FOX

Brilliant Star of "STRICTLY DISHONORABLE" Screens to new heights in this amazing story of Sister against Sister in a battle of Love.

"Nice Women"

with RUSSELL GLEASON
WEDNESDAY

GEORGE ARLISS

"THE MAN WHO PLAYED GOD"

Nothing we can say will add to its glories. You'll write its praise with joys and tears.

with VIOLET HEMING — BETTE DAVIS
THURSDAY



Too wonderful for words!

INA CLAIRE — JOAN BLONDELL
in "The Greeks Had a Word for Them"
FRIDAY

CHARLIE CHAPLIN
in "CITY LIGHTS"
SATURDAY