

**The Daily Tar Heel**

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Saturday, February 27, 1932

**Borah For President!**

Pinchot, big business, Pennsylvania Republican, is exercising his influence in trying to get smooth tongued, foreign affairs committee, bimetallic Borah to run on the Republican ticket for the presidency.

The public is suffering generally from the illusion that Borah is an enlightened and powerful liberal. There seems to be little to substantiate this belief. For a number of years this man has flaunted his ignorance with a blatant self-assurance which is downright amazing.

The day of sentimentality and soft lush sentiment in the White House is past. The president of the United States should be a man with extraordinary intelligence and insight into both national and international problems. The president should be a man of courage and independent intellectual vigour. If Borah manifests any of these characteristics, he does so without letting the world know about it.

Mr. Borah's stand on bimetalism is silly. If he were to study the banking situation he would discover that the need is not for more coin, there is plenty of gold in our vaults, but for the liberation of that gold. Undertaking the silver standard would merely mean the flight of gold, the world's oldest and most proven monetary metal, from this country, leaving us the worse for it. As a banking expert Mr. Borah leaves much to be desired.

In foreign affairs, Mr. Borah's forte, presumably, his remarks on the Polish Corridor last fall made all of Europe laugh condescendingly at his naivete. More recently Mr. Borah's procrastination and empty verbiage have allowed Japan to plunge itself into an insane predicament and China in a worse one.

In picking out its president the nation must cold shoulder silver tongued mouth pieces of big business, all hay seed eccentrics, all bought-and-paid-for-politicians, and seek out a man whose training in economics and political philosophy and foreign relations will be adequate to

meet the most critical national problems that have faced this country. There is no assurance, of course, that he will be found, but at best the voters of the American commonwealth can exercise their influence in weeding out those candidates that are obviously not fitted for national leadership.—R.W.B.

**Not Enough Small Towns**

A question that should be of considerable interest nowadays concerns the position of the small town in the increasingly urban civilization of the United States. Especially ought this problem to attract the attention of the students of a university in this state, as North Carolina hitherto has been conspicuously a "small town" state, a state of few great cities but a scattered multitude of local centers for life's various activities. Even in the rural south, Virginia has had her Richmond and her Norfolk, South Carolina her Charleston, and Georgia her Atlanta—populous cities all; with North Carolina state-wide or even large regional metropolises have until the present been absent or unimportant. In a transformed and industrialized New South our entire immunity to metropolitan influence can hardly be expected to survive.

Even so, those who are native to the small town or who favorably regard it (for these are not always the same) need not despair. Economic prophets are not lacking who predict its continuance in a somewhat modified form, and, while prophecies of a return to country and small town life on a nation-wide scale must be regarded as uncertain and hazardous at present, the more moderate prophets justify their assertion with plausible and reasonable arguments. Thus, the ease of modern transportation stimulates the growth of manufacturing in the towns as well as in the city, it is pointed out; the widespread distribution of cheap power facilitates this tendency; and if the city becomes more than ever the commercial, political, and cultural center of American life, this change implies only the surrender of the town to urban leadership, not its passing away.

It is probable, in fact, that the subjection of the small town in cultural and other fields to urban and cosmopolitan supremacy will serve to remove many of the undesirable if perhaps interesting features of small town life. Such agencies as the movie, the automobile, and the radio should combine with metropolitan ascendancy to broaden, deprovincialize, and liberalize the society and prejudices and customs of the town, and in general destroy any of its unpleasant and backward characteristics, while permitting the preservation of its more agreeable qualities. If the small town is strengthened industrially and enabled to continue its economic existence, and at the same time bettered culturally and sociologically, its advantages as a place of residence may compare satisfactorily in the future with those of the large city, even by modern standards.—K.P.Y.

**Cultivating Disrespect**

The campaign of THE DAILY TAR HEEL for action to remedy the present state of the honor system at the University has brought action from some quarters and comments from many. Students have been stirred to a new considering of the system that is different from former reflections in that it is serious. But the reaction of many students to the proposed pledge to report cheaters is startling. They state flatly that they are not in favor of it, saying that it makes no difference to them if others cheat.

This attitude is peculiar and is a reaction from the excess cheating that has been going on. It is a protective wall of indifference built up by those who, not willing to cheat themselves, see no remedy for the wholesale cheating of others under the present system.

But this attitude is essentially wrong. There are several reasons. In classes where the grading is on a comparative basis, honest students are actually having their grades lowered.

Cheating, recognized and permitted, hurts the University. It lowers the faith of people of the state in the institution where such an obnoxious habit is permitted. And for many of the students themselves the feeling of respect is necessarily lowered. Respect for an institution to which one belongs is based on and is an outgrowth of faith in and esteem of the members. Who can esteem or have any basis of faith in students who lie and cheat?

If comparisons are odious, the deductions from comparisons are even more so. Transfer students draw conclusions that are far fetched but have enough reason or basis to make them very palatable when recounted back home. One such student stated on occasion that the honor system will not work in North Carolina.

The state is paying large sums to provide the means for education. Each student costs the state a surprisingly large amount. Those that are not fit mentally and morally to take advantage of the opportunity offered should be eliminated to make room for those that are.

Permitting men with the wrong slant on lying and cheating to continue and thrive here is idiotic. With the veneer of knowledge and culture they imbed in spite of themselves they will be able to assume positions of relative importance in later life.

To assure himself of the right attitude on this question of eradicating cheating one must consider it comprehensively. One must not permit petty preferences and illogical ideas to bias him.—H. H.

**With Contemporaries**

**A Sorry Retrogression**

"No speaker will be allowed to speak on the campus at an open assembly if he intends to attack the state of national government, specific individuals, or the university itself. The university emphatically does not want so-called 'Red' speeches on the campus."

It is hard to believe that the above ultimatum could issue from the lips of a present-day college president, commonly looked upon as the very standard-bearer of liberal thinking in its fight to educate a narrow-minded world.

Yet only last week President M. Lyle Spencer laid down that dogmatic decree at the University of Washington, considered a leader of education in the northwest. At least, until now it has been so regarded. Whether it can hold its standing after this distinct backward step remains to be seen.

Dr. Spencer's statement was inspired by an address of Sherwood Eddy, well-known traveler and author of socialistic beliefs, delivered to the students of Washington last week. Mr. Eddy has been heard with enthusiasm by faculty and students of both Stanford and California. He is a Yale graduate and holds a degree from Princeton.

It is gratifying to note that Dr. Spencer's action has aroused

a storm of controversy at Washington and throughout the northwest. The student newspaper has flayed the ultimatum of its own administration with commendable courage. The Seattle press has hinted that the interesting talk of Mr. Eddy has sent Washington university leaders "running for cover."

The Daily is not condemning or approving either socialism or capitalism. Nor is it attempting to solve the problems of the University of Washington. It is, however, viewing with genuine regret the attempt of a college president at a fellow Pacific coast institution to coddle his students in an incubator with apparent sincerity in believing them too weak mentally and morally to hear all and decide for themselves.—Stanford Daily.

**The Power Of The Press**

University of Nebraska students had a highly personal experience with the "power of the press" recently when an incident occurring in the institution which they attend was paraded in streamers and black headlines on the front pages of Nebraska newspapers.

The actual incident was this: One man, a former student, was nabbed in a university building while in possession of a small quantity of intoxicating liquor.

Whereas such an incident would call forth, at the most, only a small news item had it happened to anyone else, anywhere else, (with certain qualified exceptions, of course), it was in this case enough to send city editors hog wild over copy and play on the story.

Students have every right to feel hostile toward a press which gives their institution such treatment. It is nothing but plain fact to say that the stories relating to the case created an entirely distorted impression of the university and the students who attend it. Many people over the state undoubtedly attached undue significance to the episode, solely because of the "play" which metropolitan papers gave it. There was nothing in the whole thing which merited such news treatment. It was entirely unrepresentative of conditions which exist. It was unjust.

On deeper reflection another element enters in. There is a reading public which bought and read those papers. Street circulation sales jumped upward because of the story. Students have a just right to feel critical of a reading public which reacts positively to such printed matter. Students on the campus understand that life at the University of Nebraska is not one of "rum" and "drinking parties."

The difficulty is that for many people the impression which they received from the stories concerning the raid in the coliseum will be the one most vivid whenever they think of the University of Nebraska. Despite the facts in the story itself they will have been influenced by the "play" and "color" which the story was given. The whole affair is typical of a gross miscarriage of fair play on the part of an influential element in Nebraska's press.—Daily Nebraskan.

**An Educated Point of View**

By a perusal of the educational conferences held recently in England one might think there are as many ideals of education as there are teachers. But amid the diversity of opinion there stands out two leading ideas—that of training for citizenship, and that of training for self expression or individuality.

As a matter of emphasis, it has been said that "individuality, rather than sociality, is the need of the moment." A member of a tribe cannot do his duty

to the tribe unless he does his duty as a man. But perhaps this tribal instinct has been over emphasized in education; it has been venerated as "tradition", as "social service", as "patriotism"—all excellent qualities, but capable of becoming stereotyped and of being understood in too narrow a sense.

The self preserving instinct of intensely nationalistic states has tended, consciously or unconsciously, to impose a national culture on its future citizens. Even the noble educational ideal of Plato, an influence on thinkers of all times, seek to produce a type of community culture which would be self sufficient and exclusive. The sacredness of being an Italian is deliberately fostered by the Fascist ideal of education.

It would be less necessary to keep hammering at the doctrine of peace if the conception of a world society of civilized humans were more firmly rooted. Universal thought is the accepted background of any peace document.

Unable to separate the individual from the society to which he belongs, nationally and locally, the educationist should concern himself with building, on top of these loyalties, a broader interest in the wide history of civilization.—Syracuse Daily Orange.

**Antiquated Student Government**

The idea that a class president is a class president is absurd. He is an officer elected by a few hundred of several thousand eligible voters. His influence extends only over the small group that he can draw to a single polling place on a campus large enough to need at least half a dozen polling places.

Students comprising the combined enrollment of the colleges of agriculture, commerce, engineering, and fine and applied arts represent one of the largest groups in the university. Yet the part played by this group in election of class officers is small, for convenient polling places are entirely absent, campus election procedure is comparatively unknown and campus parties do not invite the presence of a group of students too large for them to handle for particular ends.

Students in the colleges of liberal arts and sciences do not have the problem of distance from the polls, but they are handicapped by a lack of knowledge of election methods and a distrust of the existing political machines. The college of law should have an organization separate from that of the other colleges because it is composed of a body of older students whose interests differ greatly from those of the main student body.

The only voting place on the campus is in the Union building, and under the thumbs of the venerable Old Line party. Few of the students who have voted at class elections in past years have known anything of the officers for whom they cast their votes; they have voted almost entirely in fraternity and sorority blocks. A few incidents reveal the character of such voting.

Girls of a prominent Mathews street sorority were the puzzled but pleased recipients of a five pound box of candy the other day. Strangely, they failed entirely to connect a none too astute senior politician donor with the forthcoming election.

The classic coup d'etat on the intelligence of our co-ed electorate occurred a few years ago. During a closely contested election (they are not that way anymore), a senior politician simulated a rival's voice over the telephone, and a few minutes later another trustful sorority on Vermont near Lincoln descended upon the Union en

masse and voted the wrong side to give it the necessary margin for victory.

The class officer elected under such conditions is not representative of the students of his class. It is not to be expected that he will be attentive to their social or scholastic interests. His prime duty is to divide the spoils of office as evenly as possible amongst the small group of henchmen who put him over.

From the character of past and present class officers, it is entirely obvious that there exists not even a minute connection between them and the large body of students. That such men should be known as representatives—class officers—is ridiculous. It is clear that the present system of student government has not grown with the university. Its existence can not be justified if students will put it to the test of reason.

Other universities throughout the country are ridding themselves of gaffly political systems and are reorganizing under systems which can adequately supply the needs of large student groups. Our student organization is a relic of the past which has no defined use at the present other than the personal gratification of a few men who are known as campus politicians, and who in most cases, are unknown otherwise.—Daily Illini.

**Success at Chicago**

The striking success, after four months' trial, of the new plan of study instituted at the university of Chicago last fall, a plan which does away with the mossy, time-honored system of grades, examinations, and compulsory class attendance, and substituted for it the strength of the will of students to gain knowledge for its own sake, should revolutionize college and university systems throughout America.

For too long campuses over the country have been mere "drill grounds" where the average student shirks studying as much as possible until "dead week" and then, by dint of concentrated effort and too many cups of strong coffee, manages to pass the three-hour examinations, which, if passed, allow him to proceed to the next higher class, and repeat the practice.

This evil, for evil it is, has long been recognized by the leading colleges, but so strong has been the fear of innovations in educational systems, and so certain have educators been that students leaving the ordinary four years of preparatory school training either will not know how to work "on their own," or will not work if not forced to, that not until last fall did an American institution have the temerity to attempt a form of the system which for so many years has been graduating leaders from universities in England and Germany.

(Continued on page three)

**Brief Facts**

About the year 330 B.C., burying alive was a method of capital punishment.

Professors C. Ortigas and L. Gonzaga of the University of the Philippines have successfully demonstrated the use of coconut oil as a fuel in Diesel engines.

Portugal has had a budget surplus for three successive years.

The United States is Germany's best customer for musical instruments.

The ancient Hindus excelled in surgery, their method of operating for cataracts still being used.