

The Daily Tar Heel

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Thursday, March 31, 1932

Ignoring All But Themselves

The spring holidays and attendant loss of opportunity for editorial expression has apparently given the German club its chance to escape from the campus eye long enough to allow the original selection of commencement marshals to be put through and photographed for the commencement section of the *Yackety Yack*, despite the decision a few weeks ago that the selection of these officers is not within the jurisdiction of the dance organization. It was understood by many prior to the vacation period that the German club election of marshals would be ruled void and referred to the junior class for official election, but apparently the club has refused to relinquish this power, which it is said to have assumed unofficially due to the negligence of class officers in calling elections in the last few years. With this turn of affairs the campus finds itself in precisely the same predicament of former years. Usurping the power of dance control which it has proven that it should not possess, the organization has over-stepped its bounds still more to resume a practice with which it has no conceivable connection.

The German club is ignoring the issue. It has refused to give the campus any satisfaction in the control of dances and the election of commencement marshals. Agitation against this organization is increasing, not decreasing. It is rumored that the law school has gone on record as threatening to discontinue its annual dance set, as long as it must come under the jurisdiction of the German club. The Phi assembly and the Di senate as well as independent groups organized specially for this purpose are also arrayed against the German club. It is even whispered about THE TAR HEEL office that the guns will begin popping early next week and that the zero hour is Thursday morning.—D.C.S.

Too Many Riding The "Band Wagon"

In the coming campus elections, nearly thirty officers are to be named. The bewildered voters must choose the president and vice-president of the student body, editors of the four publications, class officers, cheer-

leaders, debate councilmen, Athletic Association officers, Publications Union board members, and others. Besides these, many other officers, as in the Y. M. C. A., Di and Phi, German club, etc., are chosen at special elections. All in all, the number of offices to be filled in the student body and in more or less public organizations must run into the hundreds. This is an absurd figure for a student body of twenty-eight hundred. Every tenth student has an office either in the student body or in some organization open to the students, not including fraternities, honorary societies and the like, which add their hundreds. The result of this superfluity of offices is to bring hopeless confusion into elections and to increase the strength of the political machines.

Many of these offices are entirely useless and could be easily abolished. The best example is the freshman class offices. The election of freshman officers is held in February, and the rising sophomore officers are inaugurated in April. The men chosen in the February elections hold office for only a few weeks during which time they have nothing to do. The president may preside over one smoker. The secretary may keep the minutes of a couple of meetings. The freshman treasury is practically non-existent. But the prize non-entity is the Vice-President of the Freshman Class. His one duty is to write home to mother and to his girl to let them know he was elected.

Many of the other class offices are equally as useless. In a university of this size, there is very little class feeling or coherence. The men are divided according to their schools, majors, or fraternities, not according to their years. There is really no need for a detailed class organization. Inasmuch as the three upper classes do give dances, they probably do need a chairman or president to appoint committees and preside over meetings. But the office of vice-president is entirely unnecessary. The duties of the secretary and the treasurer are light, and the offices could easily be combined.

These minor offices are not only unnecessary; they do a good deal of harm. They confuse the voters, particularly the freshmen, and add complexity to the elections. But more important, they are a great aid to political machines. The Gamma Gamma's will vote for John Doe for president of the student body if their pledge Joe Brown can be vice-president of the sophomore class next year. By a judicious allotment of these minor class offices, an astute politician can win six or eight fraternities to his banner. They are perhaps the main links in forging together political parties on the campus. The freshman elections in particular are nothing but opportunities for fraternity political machines to try their strength.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL proposes the abolishing of all freshman offices and the vice-presidencies of the other classes and the combination of the offices of secretary and treasurer. This would do away with ten offices, thus simplifying campus elections, and would make possible fairer and more open elections through the weakening of the political machines. Perhaps a system may be devised in the future whereby the whole class system may be done away with and a more logical plan of organization by schools adopted.—D.M.L.

The attitude of Japan reminds one of the sheep-stealer whose excuse was that a sheep tried to bite him.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter (Boston)*.

With Contemporaries

The Business Man In College

Several years ago an Indianapolis business man, having made enough money to last him the rest of his life, came to Butler. Since that time he has moved to another school—still studying. This kind of thing has been happening all over the country of late—the business man going to school.

And perhaps it is a healthy sign. Since nineteen hundred, there has been consistent criticism directed toward the business men who are so busy making money they do not have time to acquire culture. Of course today their sons are getting it before they enter business. Yesterday the fathers had to make their own way and did not have time for cultural improvement. Now they are coming back.

They are beginning to realize that money is not all there is to live for and they are finding culture practical. In order to spend their middle age and old age in more pleasant ways than seeking more money, they believe in reading, learning and studying.

Say, if you will, that the business men are going highbrow, but the fact cannot be denied that in this one thing lies a major solution for the evils inherent in our system of competition and capitalism. If, when a man has reached a place in finance where he has fulfilled his duty of caring for himself and family and has fitted himself in reasonable security, he then seeks education and culture, he will be stepping out of the business rush and making room for another business man to take his place.

Competition will not be so keen, depressions will not be so frequent and life may be happier both for those still engaged in business and those seeking culture. The business man in college today may seem out of place. Tomorrow he may be far ahead of those who keep to their industry.

The Border-Line

Intellectual "growing pains" like tonsils and wisdom teeth, are a part of the life process which every normal individual experiences. Distressing yet necessary to healthy development, these "pains" offer certain dangers to the individual. Not the least of these is the task of making the "scientific attitude" yield us that tolerance so necessary in the sphere of human relations.

In adjusting one's perspective towards moral, ethical and religious problems, to which our early training has conditioned us in a definite fashion, we often have difficulty in determining the point at which approved tolerance becomes a condemned laxness in judgment. Non-conformity in a superior individual may become socially productive. But as most of us can produce only as we fit ourselves into the accepted standards, it can become destructive to all our finer capacities.

A college campus, with its multitudinous contacts with new and different persons and ideas is liable to place the bewildered student in this position. The individual discovers that many students have standards which differ from his, and in his attempt to develop a tolerant attitude, accepts for himself a code which cannot possibly fit in or complement his own personality.

Tolerance is a word which finds its truest significance only in our attitude towards others. The adoption of a personal standard below which our own behavior must not fall is the only way we can keep a distinction

between broad-mindedness and laxness. Tolerance toward others, but not to oneself, seems the guiding principle which offers the best development for individual mental growth.—*Syracuse Daily Orange*.

A Course For Illiterates

It would not be generally supposed that the question of illiteracy could constitute a very serious problem on the Princeton campus. A recent comment coming from the faculty, however, reveals the fact that this evil is sufficiently prevalent here to warrant the serious consideration of a course designed to teach members of the University the rudiments of English grammar and composition.

Under the present educational system the ability to present ideas written in a clear and concise form plays a large part in the undergraduate's curricular life. Yet frequently, even in junior and senior years, professors are forced to administer severe penalties to students who have submitted papers, which, whatever may be their intrinsic merit, are materially handicapped by their illiterate presentation. In many cases, it may be presumed that this fault is to be accounted for on the score of carelessness, but since the situation exists, whatever may be its cause, a course designed to correct it would be justified.

The mechanics of the course would be such as to keep a man in it only as long as his continuance of the work was deemed necessary. The man whose work had suffered from carelessness would remain in the class for only a short time, while the student whose ignorance of composition was a real handicap would be detained until he had mastered the essential groundwork. By this system carelessness

could be measurably cut down and the general literate standard of the University materially raised. Harvard has, with success, run a similar course at Cambridge for several years, and the experiment might well prove worth the trouble expended in establishing it at Princeton.—*Daily Princetonian*.

The Speed With Which Roosevelt Travels

One wonders at the momentum of the Roosevelt-for-President campaign. It grows and grows. In the few States where primaries have been held in which his name is presented, he has run away with the field. Nobody seems to be a serious challenger.

The easiest answer that comes to mind in respect to this phenomenon is that Mr. Roosevelt's forces have effective organizations already. That is a much more acceptable decision to reach than one which would attribute his success to the flaming qualities of a great personality whose appeal is to popular fancy.

Mr. Roosevelt does not make spectacular incursions upon the imagination. He is not of that type.

Around him is woven no halo that the exceptional man sometimes presents. On the other hand, he is exceedingly practical, prosaic, unimaginative himself and somewhat commonplace in his constant qualities. Not at all the kind of man at the mention of whose name the multitudes would run into ecstasy.

Yet he has driving power as a candidate. That is not to be denied. He is getting somewhere. In fact, he is going at a tempo that must be very alarming to others who may be coveting the honor of the Presidential nomination in the Democratic ranks.—*The Charlotte News*.

Dr. Hauptmann Likes Us

Dr. Gerhart Hauptmann, the German dramatist who has achieved international fame, recently confessed after a three-week visit to the United States that he was "tremendously impressed" with the "progress toward esthetic and intellectual maturity" of the American people and by the "easy naturalness" which he found to be a dominant national characteristic.

"The outstanding national characteristic that impressed me most about American" he told reporters in parting, "is your easy naturalness of approach. Americans are cordial and dignified without being stiff or conventional. The phrase 'be your-

(Continued on last page)

It Is Worth Knowing That—

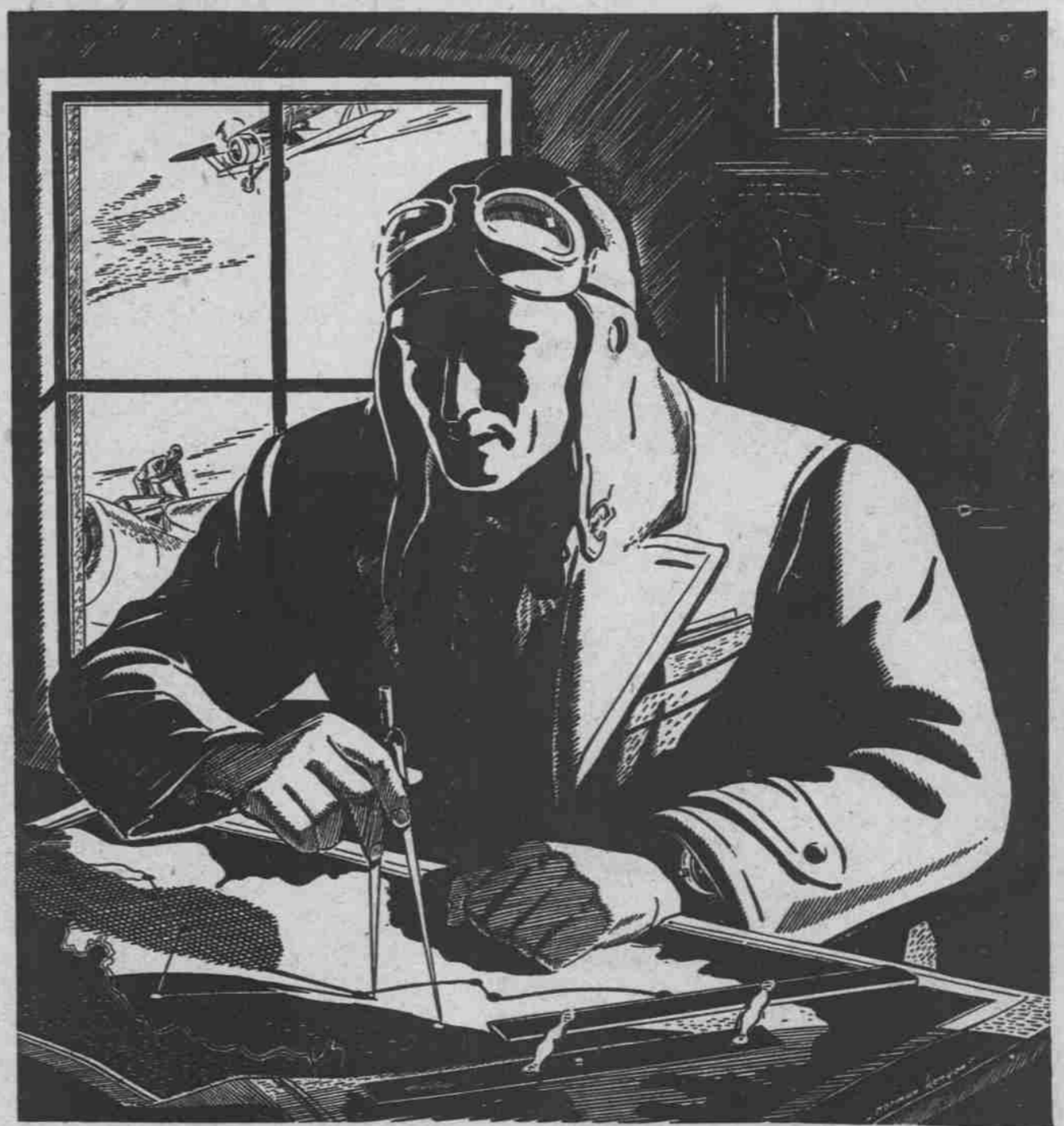
The White House was the first public building erected in Washington, the corner-stone having been laid on October 13, 1792.

The national wealth of the United States was estimated by the National Industrial Conference Board in 1929 as \$361,837,000,000.

The deepest place in the ocean yet found is in the Mindanao, between the Philippines and Japan, where soundings of 34,210 feet have been reported.

San Bernardino county, California, is the largest in the United States, having an area of 20,175 square miles.

Areas which in other states would be called counties in Louisiana are called parishes.



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