

The Daily Tar Heel

The official newspaper of the Publications Union Board of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where it is printed daily except Mondays, and the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Holidays. Entered as second class matter at the post office of Chapel Hill, N. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price, \$4.00 for the college year.

Offices on the second floor of the Graham Memorial Building.

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Friday, April 15, 1932

Political Maneuvering At Its Worst

The most hypocritical piece of political maneuvering that has been seen in this country in years, is now going on in the capital of this great enlightened democracy of ours. Members of Congress, believing themselves to be statesmen working for the best interests of the public, are allowing themselves to be bulldozed into backing the idea of giving World War veterans full payment of their bonuses immediately. These so-called statesmen are fighting, apparently wholeheartedly, for the passage of one of the numerous bonus bills, knowing full-well that Herbert Hoover will veto the bill when it comes to him for signature.

They give as their reason for such an action that by thus placing more money into circulation they will thereby be taking a step toward prosperity, and at the same time be alleviating the condition of unemployment over the country. But herein lies the fallacy. One of their underlying reasons for taking such a move is that they might be reasonably assured that the American Legion will back them in the forthcoming elections.

Disregarding the difficulties that the authorities in Washington are now having in trying to present a balanced budget, these self-acclaimed statesmen are doing all in their power to make certain their re-election.

But the condemnation does not stop here. There are the thousands of Legionnaires who in 1918 fought to save their country, who are now fighting just as hard to cripple it. They are the cause behind this whole affair. They are the ones who because of having sacrificed their lives for their country are now demanding practically the same in return. They are the ones who would, because they are politically able, are trying, and in many cases succeeding, to order members of Congress around at the crack of their whip. And they are the ones who, with times as hard as they are today, are about to sap the life-blood of the government by demanding that they be given full payment of their bonuses which ordinarily would not fall due until 1945.

The United States is not in a position to make this payment at present. In the opinion of some economists, it will result in a decided decrease in the value of a dollar, and may possibly end

in the government's having to go off the gold standard. It will be a critical step for the government to have to take.

But if the people will but wake up to the fact that the American Legion is trying to put something over on them just because it is powerful enough to do so, they will rally against the move and see to it that the bonus bill does not even pass Congress. But may they awake before it is too late!

Round Two

The University of Oklahoma has recently revised its electoral system so as to set up certain scholastic qualifications for office-holders and to put control of the elections more into the hands of the faculty. Under their new system, each voter must have a certificate of eligibility signed by his dean before he can vote; a dean presides at the ballot box; and the votes are counted by representatives of the faculty. Such a system of faculty supervision is entirely contrary to the theory of student government at Carolina, but the reforms at Oklahoma call our attention to several reforms that are needed in our own electoral system.

The secret ballot, for which the TAR HEEL has so long pled, was finally adopted for last week's election. Now the students have an opportunity to express their true opinion at the polls, without fear of coercion or restraint by "politicians."

However, many other reforms are needed. We still go through the useless formality of electing men to such offices as vice-president of the sophomore class. All class officers, except the more or less necessary presiding officers and perhaps treasurers of the two upper classes, are utterly useless. We elect annually four class vice-presidents whose duty is to have their pictures taken for the *Yackety Yack*. We have secretaries who have nothing to do but read the minutes of the previous meeting, and seldom do that. We have treasurers who wait all year to perform their one duty—writing a check for the expenses of the class dance. And most silly of all, we have freshman class officers who are elected in February and hold office until April. They serve for eight weeks, and have no discoverable duties at all. The captain of the Wapscott College horseshoe-pitching team has a tremendous burden of responsibility compared to that of the vice-president of the freshman class.

The sole use of these minor class offices is to strengthen political machines and shed unearned glory on ambitious young worthies. If they are abolished, aspiring candidates for the presidency of the student body will no longer be able to secure the support of the Tappa Nu Kegs by offering their pledges, Johnny Jones, the position of secretary of the sophomore class, nor will Johnny's proud mother be able to show the envious neighbors Johnny's prominently displayed picture in the *Yackety Yack*; but the elections at Carolina would be much more sensible. The TAR HEEL again proposes that all freshman class offices and all class vice-presidencies be abolished, and that the offices of secretary and treasurer of the various classes be combined. This would be a much more simple and sensible arrangement, and would be a step toward the elimination of much of the silly superfluity for which college life is so much criticized.—D.M.L.

The Philippine Islands recently experienced the coldest weather since 1914 when the mercury dropped to sixty degrees above zero.—*Christian Science Monitor*.

"Politician"—A Stigma?

In yesterday's DAILY TAR HEEL editorial columns there appeared the statement that Norman Thomas was not a politician. This statement was meant to be complimentary, but why is it that this term politician seems to carry with it a measure of opprobrium and disrespect? Certainly a man who devotes his life to serving the public, who assumes responsibility in seeing that the wishes of his constituency are carried out, and who blazes the way in political thought—certainly this man should be looked up to and admired. Yet the phrase, "just a politician," is damning and carries not even faint praise.

The man described above would undoubtedly receive the adulation of his followers, but politicians of this type are so rare that they are not thus classified. They are statesmen and "fearless leaders" who never hesitate to express themselves on any issue and will attempt to persuade recalcitrant followers of the error of their ways. Far from this ideal is the common "run-of-the-money" politician of today. Grafting, bargaining, timid, and afraid of militant minorities; he is far from an edifying figure in the responsible offices of our national, state, and city governments.

In accounting for the politician of today one must delve back into history to the end of the Civil War. Before this period a politician was apt to be an outstanding man, but along with the profound changes wrought by the War for Secession came the new office holder. Even the Presidents were mediocre, with Cleveland alone standing out between the administrations of Lincoln and Roosevelt. Leaders in Congress were cast from an even worse mold. Sumner, Wade, and Chase of the reconstruction period; Conkling, "Me-to" Platt, Blease of South Carolina, and Hefflin of Alabama—these and others less prominent have helped tear down the prestige of being a politician.

The conditions which have permitted these men to have become so common that their type is tolerated in Congress and the state legislature, and even accepted as a matter of course, are deplorable; but until something nearer economic equality is achieved, mediocre politicians placed by the "vested interests" will continue to hold office. As it is, a man who breaks party lines, who does not play up to rich corporations, and who dares to defy well organized minorities such as the Anti-Saloon League and the American Legion stands little chance of being re-elected, if, indeed, this courageous man could ever have been elected.—B.P.

With Contemporaries

The Sanford Inquisition

Methods reminiscent of the Spanish Inquisition and paralleling the modern third degree of the police were employed at the joint meeting of the Men's and Women's Councils last Monday night in the trial of certain members of a geology class, many of whom were women, who were suspected of cheating.

The students under suspicion were closeted in separate rooms until they appeared before the Councils. Upon being brought in, they were subjected to a cross-questioning usually reserved for hardened criminals, in an effort to trip them up on a minor or even irrelevant point.

One girl was informed upon facing the Councils that a girl just previously questioned had

confessed that she was guilty and had also said that this girl was implicated. The girl facing the inquisitors denied the accusation, and found out afterwards that the other girl had neither confessed nor implicated her but that the scheme was a trick to force her into an admission of guilt.

In using such tactics the Councils are not only overstepping the bounds of decency, but are working against their own interests, which are the preservation and maintenance of their Honor Code.

The Men's Council has instigated an educational plan in an effort to instill in the students a sense of honor necessary for the success of the Honor Code, which consists of an abhorrence of cheating and a willingness to report violators of the Code.

Police court methods will cause the students to regard the Councils as a force, inimical to their welfare, which they should frustrate in every possible way. Without student co-operation the Councils can accomplish nothing and the Honor Code will be a failure. Such co-operation cannot be gained by roughhouse tactics. Instead they will force the students to band together against a body which seeks to bulldoze them into an admission of guilt, especially when in many instances the student may be innocent.

Perhaps the Councils should not be criticized too heavily. The present system is in a stage of trial and the Councils have erred. If they realize their mistake and correct their methods, the damage done can be quickly repaired.—*The Sanford Daily*.

The Cigaret

"Necessity is the mother of invention," we often hear. The cigaret, which is so popular today, was just such an invention, and this year marks its hundredth anniversary.

According to a French investigator who has traced its origin, it was first discovered by gunners besieging Acre, Syria, in 1832. A consignment of tobacco was sent to the soldiers with pipes for smoking it. During transit the pipes were broken, and when it arrived many of the soldiers found that they had no way of smoking the tobacco.

The ingenious soldiers pressed into service the little tubes of India paper ordinarily loaded with powder for priming

charges. They took the tubes and filled them with tobacco. So it was that cigarets were first discovered more or less by accident; but it was a discovery that has grown into one of the largest industries in the country.

—*Daily Kansan*.

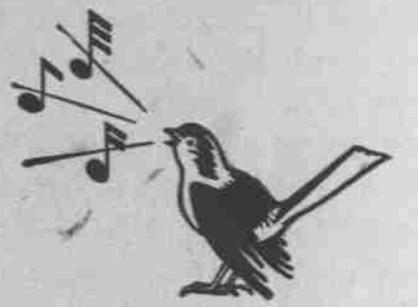
At the University of Berlin, students are permitted a period

of six weeks in which to analyze and select their professors.
—*Oberlin Review*.

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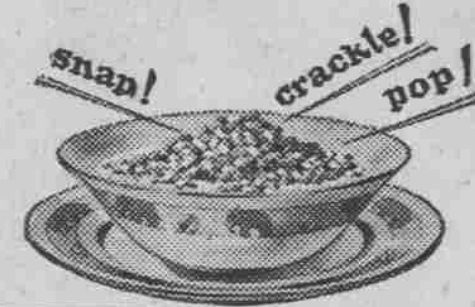
Bring a touch of SPRING to breakfast

You'll surely welcome Kellogg's Rice Krispies these mornings. Delicious, roasted rice bubbles that are so crisp they crackle in milk or cream. What could be more refreshing—or so much of a change from the heavy, hot dishes of winter!



And truth to tell, we don't need so many heavy, hot foods in this age of steam-heated houses and closed automobiles. Cold

weather just isn't what it used to be. That's why red flannels and bed warmers have disappeared—and why crisp, delicious cereals are becoming more and more popular.



Kellogg's Rice Krispies are rich in energy, easy to digest. Great for a bed-time snack. Drop in at your favorite restaurant tonight and just try them.

You must come over!

They meet a French girl! She shows them a hot time in the old Paris Town! You, too, must come over—

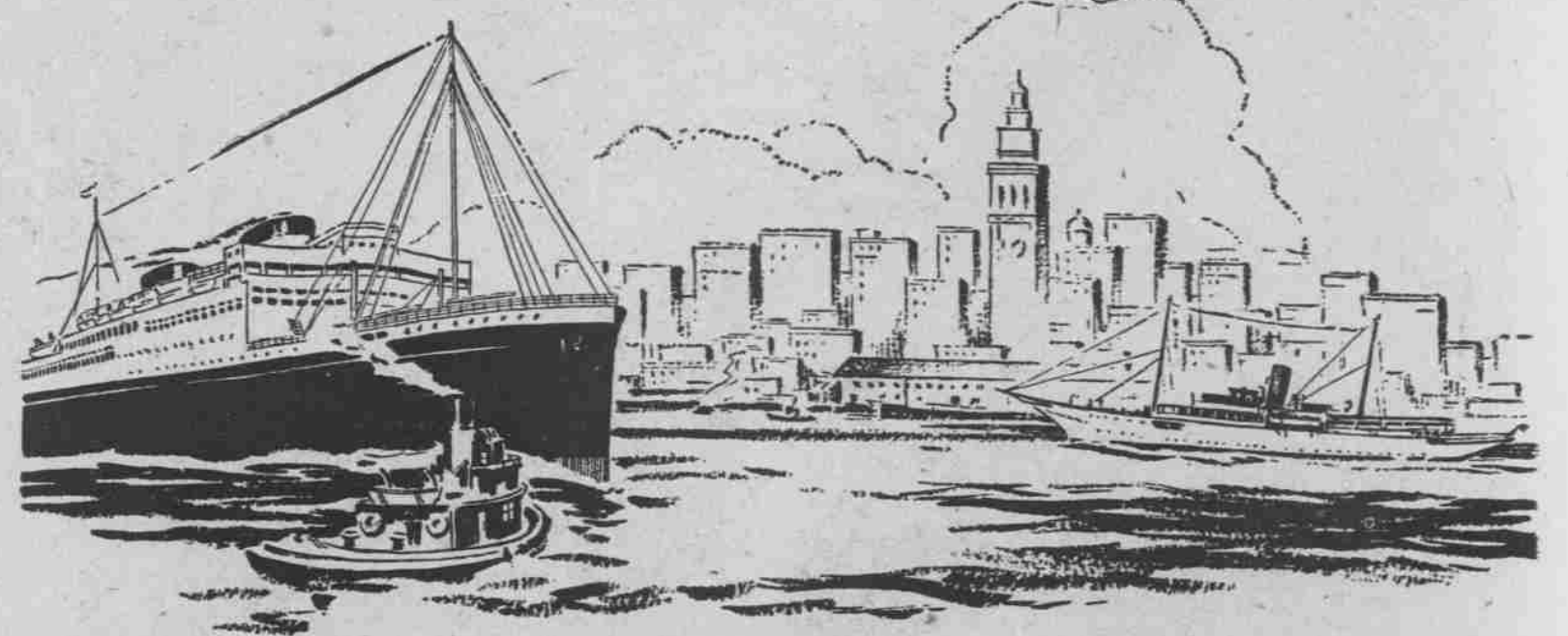
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with
LILY DAMITA
Charlie Ruggles
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Now Playing A two-reel special—"The War in China" And Paramount News

—Also—
CAROLINA SPENCER TRACY in "YOUNG AMERICA"
—Saturday—



1931 MADE HISTORY IN SHIP ELECTRIFICATION

BECAUSE the combined horsepower of turbine-electric equipment installed and now in process of construction passed the one million mark during the year. BECAUSE the *President Hoover*, first all-electric ship built in America for commercial transoceanic service, completed its first round trip to Asiatic ports. BECAUSE the *Talamanca*, the first of the largest electrically propelled fleet ever laid down, was delivered to its owners. BECAUSE electrification—an American contribution to marine transportation—was adopted by the leading shipbuilding countries of the world. BECAUSE, on the high seas and on inland waterways, electrically propelled ships established new records for speed and continuous operation. • General Electric engineers not only pioneered the application of electric propulsion, but have made many contributions to its development during the last two decades. By the complete electrification of the *President Hoover*, and the six new ships of the United Fruit Company's fleet, college-trained General Electric engineers have made another striking contribution to American shipbuilding and world trade.

GENERAL ELECTRIC