

The Daily Tar Heel

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Sunday, May 15, 1932

The Controversy At An End

The faculty last Wednesday night formally approved the proposed set of rushing rules under which the season of rushing will last two weeks, instead of the one week formerly suggested. Under the new rules the entire season, including the days of visiting and the period of silence and decision, will continue for sixteen days, beginning September 24 and ending October 8.

A plan providing a one week period, previously considered and at one time almost certain of adoption, has been wisely abandoned. At the conclusion of rushing the freshman must make a decision that will not only vitally affect his entire college career but will in important respects influence the formation of his character during some of his most sensitive and impressionable years. It is hardly just to force this decision upon him after only one week of rushing—a period which, precisely on account of its brevity, would be characterized by an intensity and concentration that would hardly admit ample time for second thought, for a proper estimate of the various lodges visited.

The longer season will allow the tension to relax somewhat, will permit a more careful and thoughtful selection and choosing on the part of both freshmen and fraternities, and will make hasty or premature action on the part of either unnecessary. It will, in brief, make available a breathing spell that will be highly desirable for all concerned in what is necessarily an arduous part of college life.

The freshman, furthermore, will already be handicapped in that he will have been in college for only a brief period. It would be difficult for an inexperienced and scarcely adapted to his environment to undergo the fierce pressure of an abridged and thereby highly intensified rushing period. It is, finally, by no means certain that a longer, more relaxed period of rushing will be more detrimental to study than would be a short, intensive period in which a concentration of energies on the matter of rushing would be practically inevitable. In view of all the factors involved, the action of the

faculty is a just and reasonable one.—K.P.Y.

The Not Quite Fourth Estate

Now that the Lindbergh case is solved so tragically the only thing left to hope for is that the perpetrators of the most brutal and shocking crime in recent years will be brought to justice. The most fervent hoppers for this to come to pass are probably not the persons directly concerned for their hope is gone and their senses are dulled by sorrow. The ones to benefit most from the capture of the criminals are the daily newspapers, for this will keep alive the "biggest news story of the year." A callous way to refer to heart-rending tragedy, but the press is notorious for its sacrifice of all human emotions to the great god News.

It appears now that the baby died shortly after the kidnapping took place, but had the negotiations for his return actually succeeded the press could derive no credit from the accomplishment. The papers in reality have hindered the efforts of those concerned in their attempts to retrieve the baby considerably. These attempts now appear tragically futile but for over two months neither the negotiators nor the reporters had an inkling of the truth and during this time the press bared every angle of the case they could learn of, whether it was advantageous to the solving of the case or not. To cite one instance only, three New York papers printed without sanction the serial numbers of the ransom money paid by Dr. Condon to a man representing himself to be one of the kidnapers. When the urgent request was made not to print these numbers these papers had already done so without pausing to apply any degree of journalistic discretion.

Constantly during the case the press had to be muzzled for fear that its incautious revelations would endanger the baby's safety. Its attitude during the past two months has been the strongest indictment of modern newspaper methods possible. Perhaps, as has been pointed out, the public with its insatiable and morbid curiosity has been mainly to blame, but the paper or news syndicate which could have used decent restraint in the handling of this case would have marked itself as superior to all those which indulged in an orgy of headline and harmful revelations.—B.P.

The Ever-Widening Breach

There exists in American college circles today two points of view diametrically opposed to one another on the question of athletics. There can be no doubt in the minds of any one that college athletics have reached a degree of over-emphasis and professionalism that constitutes a real threat to existing ideals of higher education. In many instances scholastic standards have been sacrificed to sports and many of our best known colleges have acquired their fame by virtue of their football teams while their scholastic rating is decidedly inferior.

Conditions such as these have given rise to a group of irate individuals who condemn partly justly and partly unjustly all college athletics and who go so far as to demand the abolition of varsity sports and intercollegiate competition. To be sure there exists much to warrant the dissatisfaction of these reformers and the worse that the condition grows the more harsh become their demands. Hence the two factions move in opposite directions constantly widening a breach that will require the utmost tact and sacrifice on the part of all too close.

There can be no disputing the value of athletics for young men. Besides developing the body it trains the character to a very appreciable degree. Trying out for a team or belonging to one calls for determination and a willingness to make sacrifices as well as to keep fighting in the face of discouragement and defeat. In addition the athlete learns the lesson of co-operation with his teammates as well as having developed within him some measure of individual responsibility and self reliance. Intercollegiate athletics creates a spirit of friendliness among schools and members of competing teams and despite the advantages of chess or debating there can arise only on the athletic field the spirit of friendliness and sportsmanship that binds the player to his school and his teammates as well as one school to another. Intercollegiate competition has too many merits to permit its abolition by sincere but misguided fanatics.

The trouble with college athletics is a trouble that is characteristic of the American people—a strong tendency to overdo everything. College athletics can be relieved of professionalism and over-emphasis without in any way impairing its value. The superior importance of scholarship must be established firmly and the paid player removed if we hope to terminate the march of the two factions to equally dangerous and undesirable extremes.—J.F.A.

A Bit of Moralizing

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, In the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side."

Without it having any revelation to what follows, the above passage is quoted to give the reader the right "setting" for the profound observations which he is to be regaled. Poetry often performs such a function. It seems to be an easy method of beginning a confused jumble of incoherent nothing.

What is it that makes us not exactly hypocritical but inconsistent in so many things? Most of us are proud to term ourselves Christians. Yet in many ways we are far from justified in so calling ourselves. The attitude of most of us to weaker and unfortunate members of our group is a good example of this. An attitude of antagonistic criticism, instead of sympathy, exists. We must realize that, of necessity, all can not be cast in the same mold. In some cases this is fortunate and in others it is not. We should remember that the dominant traits of character are the result of birth and environment. Thus we should sympathize with a person who got a poor hand in this deal. Any successes a person of this kind make are doubly praiseworthy.—H.H.

THOSE NEW BOOKS

The Young Revolutionist has just been received by the Book Market. In this small novel Mrs. Buck gives an authentic picture of Chinese boys and young men as she has seen them in their blind, groping eagerness to build a new China.

Sam Selden, whose sister lived with her family for a number of years, tells us that her name before her marriage was Pearl Swinkerman. She was the child of missionary parents and has lived in China practically all her life. She did, however, spend some time in this country at school in Virginia. Her husband teaches agriculture at the University of Nanking. For a while she taught at Ginling Col-

lege but in recent years she has devoted most of time to writing.

Those who read *Shadows on the Rock* will be pleased to know that they can expect another Cather book by the tag end of the summer. Alfred Knopf announces *Obscure Destinies* containing three long stories: "Neighbor Rosicky," "Old Mrs. Harris," and "Two Friends."

Harper & Brothers announces their sixth Prize Novel contest to end February 1, 1933. Sinclair Lewis, Dorothy Canfield, and Harry Hansen will act as judges. Any author who is an American citizen who has published a novel in book prior to January 1, 1931 is eligible. The competition has been held every two years since 1922. *Brothers in the West* by Robert Reynolds was the last prize winner.

Along the *Lighthouse Harry Lee* and the *Back Bay Murders* we recommend for the week's balanced rations of reading *The Pity of God*. This novel of modern life has impact. It is going to invite comparison with "The Bridge." "The Vickereys were such nice people—so substantial and comfortable," Beulah Dix understands and exposes the comic tragedy of each member of this doomed household. The entire action of *Pity of God* takes place within twenty four hours. Though the climax comes to the reader as a surprise, careful analysis will disclose that Mrs. Dix has prepared for it admirably. Though the tragedy comes as a result of an outside force the tale never descends to the melodramatic. It remains throughout what it started out to be, a study of character. Over the charming California suburb an home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vickery hangs the Nemesis of the House of Atreus. Not Zeus the Avenger, but God the Pitying takes in his hands the hopelessly tangled mess of lives.

Alice in Wonderland has been a best seller this year at the Book Market. Grosset and Dunlap have issued a dollar edition. The Modern Library copy includes *The Hunting of the Shark*. Both have illustrations by Tenniel.

Dick Walsler, '29, is in town for a few days. He has been down visiting in Charleston where he had the good fortune to talk with Julia Peterkin. "No one answered the front door," says Dick, "So I went around to the back. There I found her in a little shed surrounded by a group of negroes. They were all fixing bunches of asparagus. She could tie the bunches quicker than anybody. She works like that, doesn't say much, just listens to the talk around her. That's how she gets her material."

"She is unusually tall, has a bony countenance, and piled-up red hair. She is not pretty, but strikingly handsome. She smokes one cigarette after another—Lucky Strikes! (Note: Not one cent was paid—). She doesn't like to be entertained by riding around, sightseeing, or the movies—but she likes to talk."

Those who are reviewing for exams in certain English courses will find Lamb's *Tales From Shakespeare* a great help.

Another year like the last and we can list the income-tax collectors with the army of federal employees who get paid for doing nothing.—*Arizona Producer*.

Chicago bootleggers must be finding business rather tough when they have to go out and grab both conventions.—*Miami News*.

Motorists are asked to exercise extra caution when nearing schools. Remembering always that little boys should be seen and not hurt.—*Punch (London)*.

With Contemporaries

United States Vs. California

Year in and year out the country has been flooded with proofs of the innocence of Thomas Mooney of the bombing for which he and Billings were sentenced to life imprisonment. The injustice done to the two former Californians, however, remains to be convinced. Natives of the Bear State sum it up by saying that "the dirty Reds got what was coming to them, even if they weren't to blame for this particular bombing." Governor Rolph, politically wise, knows that he depends upon California, not Americans, for advancement in his chosen profession.

Mooney, a triumphant martyr to the cause of labor, predicts: "A few more such victories for the capitalist system (the denial of his pardon) and it will be ready for the junk heap, where it historically belongs." The American people, quick to grasp at a symbol, have long since set the Mooney-Billings case apart. The obvious injustice has melted the kindly but impractical American heart.

Once such a case has really been brought to public attention, the people are loath to forget it until justice has been done; in like manner, they are extremely slow to face the facts in the beginning until they can neither be hidden or explained away.

Eventually perhaps, Mooney will be freed. Then the great American chest will expand with just pride in the triumph of the right. When that time comes, it will be able to give its general attention to the next case on the roster.—*Cornell Sun*.

Only Revolt in Party Will Block Hoover

(Continued from first page)
by his position on the Reconstruction Board; the third is well over seventy and had his best chances twelve and four years ago. The three Senators that showed strength at Kansas City—Watson, Goff, and Curtiss—have less to commend them this year than then. Hughes is on the Supreme Court, Root is over ninety, and Morrow is dead. Eliminate on factional grounds the perennial Progressive possibilities, Borah, Johnson, and Pinchot, and who remains? Not a single, outstanding, proven, popular, confidence-inspiring and vote-getting Republican. Scrutinize the Cabinet, comb the Senate, delve into the House, pass governors and mayors in review—not a single really able nor even "available" Republican Presidential candidate can be unearthed; not a single stronger candidate than Mr. Hoover himself can be found.

No Change in Hoover

Why shouldn't the Republicans run Mr. Hoover again? It is said he is weak in the Far West and that the farmers of the Middle West will not be in the Homestead-party fold this autumn. (No one is suggesting some other Republican as a better shepherd, though). It is said that he lacks ability to cooperate cordially or at all; that he arouses no enthusiasm among his colleagues and his party associates; that he chills those who come with proffers of aid and generates suspicion and ill-will where sympathetic and friendly cooperation should exist. But that's the type of man he has always been. In war time those traits were approvingly labeled "managerial efficiency" and "administrative genius." The man has not changed in the White House, unless, according

to some reports, to become more approachable, more amenable to suggestion, more human.

One Vital Point of Attack

There is only one really vital point of attack on the President at this time, and the Opposition party seems to be doing its utmost to lose the benefit of that. Mr. Hoover is criticized for the "inadequacy of his ideas" in the present and recent-past national economic situation. Last November this was valid. But the Congressional record of the past five months has just about completely cut the ground from under the Democrats on this score. I do not refer to the charges of "playing politics," impliedly made against them recently by the President himself, for I think such a charge is legitimately applicable to both party groups in Congress. I refer to the fact that every constructive measure enacted in the present session of Congress has been a Hoover measure. There was no Democratic legislative program last December; none has evolved in the months that have passed. The Democratic House and Democratic Senators simply allowed the President to take the initiative and "steal the show." They cannot now with consistency charge him with a weakness that has been much more violently exhibited by themselves.

Protects Tax Payer

There is being painted at Washington for nation-wide exhibition a portrait of a stocky, broad-shouldered, serious-faced man who stands as a sturdy bulwark between an irresponsible and reckless Congress and the national treasury; a man who is protecting the American tax-paying public from the wilful plundering of self-interest groups. The President obviously yearns to popularize this portrait—and Congress is giving him generous assistance.

The American economic slump is now viewed in a world-wide setting and as affected by world-wide conditions: the saner element among American voters will not now charge one man with responsibility for all that. No man as President could lead Congress through tariff reduction or debt revision in the present temper of the nation. Probably no occupant of the White House could do more than has been done in reconciling conflicting programs of the "experts" and probably most men as Chief Executive would have endeavored to bolster public confidence in basic American institutions such as Mr. Hoover has attempted to do. Whether the Republicans at Chicago should turn to the "political group" or the much deflated "big business men" they probably cannot find any better available candidate than the President himself.

FULL PROGRAM OF MUSICAL EVENTS BILLED FOR TODAY

(Continued from first page)
has played a short program in the theatre before the showing of the picture, but this time it was thought better to offer a full band concert on the campus at a later hour. The probable program this afternoon will be *Atlantis Suite*, by Safranek; *Concert Waltz*, by Pippin; *March of the Dwarfs*, by Edvard Grieg; and several concert marches.

The picture show will begin at 2:00 o'clock so as to avoid any conflict with the organ recital. "The Country Fair", starring Hobart Bosworth, Ralph Ince, Marion Shilling, and William Collier, Jr., will be shown.

Friends of Al Smith report that he has outgrown his brown derby, but what the other aspirants want to know is whether he has outgrown his old running pants.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*.