

**The Daily Tar Heel**

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Thursday, May 26, 1932

**The Only Sane Solution**

For several years it has been threatened that unless the efficiency of the honor system is considerably increased, steps will be taken to introduce another method of student discipline.

However, if the suggested plan to be considered at the mass meeting of the student body tomorrow night is passed, this threat will no longer be in order. The students will have taken a long stride towards a perfection of the honor system.

Under the new arrangement students entering the University will be required to sign a pledge that they will not violate the requirements of the honor system themselves and will be held responsible for reporting all violations coming to their attention.

Last year the student council's records show that hardly ten cases came up in which the violators were reported to students other than council members. Under such conditions the present system can hardly be expected to work efficiently. The students argued that they could not make themselves feel the responsibility to report the guilty persons. But under the proposed plan each student will be given this responsibility when he enters the University, and if he fails in this task he will be held equally as guilty as the man whom he refused to report. On the other hand, if he reports the guilty party he himself will not be looked on as a "squealer" but instead as just another student who did what was required of him.

This will save considerable embarrassment for those spineless individuals who are afraid to report violations under the present plan. It will give them a chance to ease their weak minds by saying that they were required to report and hence had no other alternative.

This proposal has been presented. Its benefits are self-evident. The rest is left to the students. If they accept the plan, they will give themselves a working system of student discipline. If they refuse the plan, they place themselves in danger of having a faculty proctor system forced upon them.

**A Souvenir of The Dark Ages**

The present trend in penology is to regard the treatment of

the criminal as corrective rather than retaliatory, and with the acceptance of this principle, capital punishment loses its only justification. While this taking of human life has been with mankind from the remotest eras of antiquity men have constantly expressed grave doubts as to its justification and efficacy. To many it does not seem right that human beings, themselves not free from sin and wrong, should have the power to deprive a fellow man of his right to live. Certainly it is a cruel and inhumane practice that might be retained if nothing else could protect human welfare; but this is not the case.

In addition to the ethical and moral objections there exists the actual facts which prove that capital punishment has failed to reduce the numbers of the crimes it is intended to prevent. Countries and states that have abolished it have found that there is no increase of murders, and in many cases there has been a considerable decrease. This is due to a great extent to the extreme reluctance of jurors to return a verdict which they know means death to the accused man before them. Hence many men guilty of crimes calling for the supreme penalty have been acquitted or found guilty of lesser crimes with less drastic punishments. The very small number of men electrocuted in proportion to the number tried for first degree murder demonstrates that there is a strong revulsion on the part of most men to the taking of life even though legally.

A further consideration is the murderer himself. Unlike other criminals the murderer is peculiar to no particular race, clime, occupation or degree of education. Most murderers are individuals who have been driven to actions of which they are normally incapable and are committed though they know their lives are at stake. Many of them are first offenders who have never been in trouble with society before and are guiltless of other crimes. Some are victims of insanity who are obviously not answerable for their actions, and in other cases the lines between sanity and insanity, between murder and homicide are so fine that it is a dangerous one to draw and kill on the balance. It is certain that many murderers might be subject to punishment and correction that would satisfy society and create a good and useful citizen.

The horrible possibility that innocent men may be convicted and sentenced, though perhaps slim, is almost reason enough to do away with a punishment that cannot be corrected if an error is made and there can be no doubting that many men have gone to their deaths through circumstantial evidence, perjury and the imperfections of human justice. An eye for an eye has been outgrown by the human race and it is a question of time only before the electric chair will grace our museums along with the thumbscrew and the rack. —J.F.A.

**Are You Listenin'?**

Disgusted with radio programs similar to ours, Canada has taken the first step in following England in regulation. In the British Isles, a private monopoly licensed by Parliament, the British Broadcasting Co., Ltd., has control. The monopoly does not make its money from advertising but from a tax of about \$1.80 that is imposed on all owners of receiving sets. Canadians plan to reduce advertising to not more than five per cent and to supervise and gradually buy in stations.

If Canadian stations are directly comparable to ours this

ado seems rather silly. There are, of course, poor programs, but it is obvious to all those who listen in on broadcasts that the level of excellence of entertainment is steadily becoming higher. The Canadians already have a tax of about two dollars on receiving sets. Cutting advertising to a very low minimum would cut off most of the income from advertising. As Frank Mason of the National Broadcasting Co. said, "They're killing the goose that lays the golden egg!" More money would have to be gotten from somewhere. It would have to come in the form of a tax whether on radios or not.

The American system seems, in spite of criticism, the best. Radio programs have a great deal of cultural value and are a quick means of getting important information to the whole country. Thus the possession of sets should be encouraged. Let advertising foot the bill for the programs. The natural competition of station and station and advertiser and advertiser will see that the programs improve.—H.H.

**Once in a Lifetime**

"If dis ain't a mess, I never seed one!"

This well-known expression of Amos and Andy, when applied to the approaching commencement exercises, seems hardly adequate to describe the situation. No one seems to know what anybody is supposed to do. Everybody apparently is relying on somebody else to do something. The result is that nobody has done anything, and everybody is blaming everybody else for doing nothing.

As yet, no announcement has been made as to who will be the commencement speaker. It is extremely doubtful that he has been chosen. Perhaps the "powers that be" are planning to make this an all-Carolina affair by having President Graham deliver the final address. This meets with our approval, not only because he is a good speaker but because we believe he won't talk long. But why has no formal announcement been made?

The senior invitations committee did nobly in its choice of invitations, but, here again, some one has failed to co-operate, for there has not been printed any program of the exercises to include in the invitations. We do not know who is to blame for this negligence, but the lack of these programs will likely cause much confusion on the part of the recipients of the invitations, for the time for the presentation of diplomas has been changed.

This business of being graduated is getting on our nerves, especially when we know so little about it. We are glad it happens only once.—B.H.N.

**Toward a Native Drama**

The recent fur-flying over the Playmakers' production of *The Butter and Egg Man* gives rise to a questioning of the policies and accomplishments of that organization. With perhaps more than a dignified measure of fan-

fare the Playmakers have set themselves up as the distillers of home-drama, the group that will keep the fires burning for folk-plays. This highly commendable aim has elicited national recognition for the Playmakers and has played no slight part in publicizing the University in a decidedly agreeable light.

Yet, the time has come when the drama group faces a certain lack of regard at home that it most surely enjoys abroad. This might be explained by the fact that the Playmakers have insisted on being more than a folk-drama institution in Chapel Hill. The vast field of dramatic possibilities has called to them and they have proceeded to dabble in areas other than their chosen one.

It is here that the group has come to grips with the home-folks. Do the Playmakers, flying their homespun banner, have the right to offer fourth-rate imitations of Broadway, when they could be doing top-notch work in the field for which they are peculiarly suited? Does the group have the privilege to select a play for local presentation merely because it is endowed with sufficient humorous situations and wise-cracks to get across regardless of the production?

The past season of the Playmakers answers some of these questions. There is little opposition to the statement that *Strike Song* was the most significant piece of work presented this year. Although the writing was in need of polishing and the acting scarcely finished, the production shines brighter than the machine-made efforts. Faults in *Strike Song* are condoned, even expected, due to the very nature of the presentation. But the sketchiness of the acting, staging, and management in *The Butter and Egg Man* are stains on the Playmakers' reputation and annoyances to a critical au-

dience.

It is to the organization's own advantage that it realizes its limitations as well as its manifest destiny. The group is a unit of actors that can completely spoil the splendid impression made with a *Strike Song* by offering a shoddy performance of *The Butter and Egg Man*. Rather let us have revival upon revival of Paul Green and Tom Wolfe than murder upon murder of Manhattan drama.

The road toward a native drama, be it remembered, does not lie through Broadway.—J.S.

**It's Worth Knowing That—**

Eamon De Valera, president of the Irish Free State, was born in the United States.

In air, sound travels from 1,130 to 1,140 feet per second; in water at a rate of 4,700 feet per second.

Bullets of stone were used in 1514.

Figures in arithmetic were introduced into Europe by the Saracens from Arabia in 991, until then letters had been used.

**HELP WANTED**

Carolina Inn desires the services of two or three summer school female students. (3)

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**Berman's Dept. Store Inc.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES—1932**

This Is to Call to Your Attention:

1. The \$5.00 diploma fee which is now due.
2. After May 27 it will be too late to get your name engrossed on the diploma by the engraver in time for Commencement.
3. After June 2 it will be too late to get your name on the Commencement Day Program.

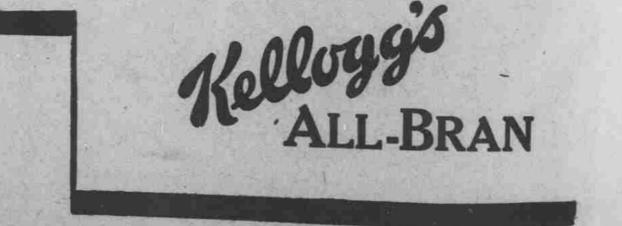
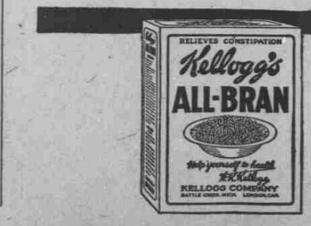
**The University Of North Carolina**

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A treacherous enemy of health is constipation. It often brings headaches, listlessness, loss of appetite. Your college days are clouded.

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The student body of Harvard University consists of students from forty-six different countries. Canada, with sixty-nine, boasts the highest number. China is next with forty. Abyssinia, Persia, Palestine, Syria, and the Virgin Islands are also represented.

On June 1st all dormitory rooms signed for by present occupants will be open for general assignment.

**Here's One Smoke for MEN**

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