

The Daily Tar Heel

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Thursday, November 10, 1932

Inoculation

Arguments against the proposal of the student council to have each classroom elect an honor committee can be anticipated. The principal objection will be that it will not work, that it is impractical.

In the first place, the objectors will say, nobody will want to serve on one of these committees. Secondly, very few of the committeemen will be willing to report their fellow students. And lastly, many of the committeemen would be incompetent to judge cases of cheating, this being especially true of freshmen unfamiliar with the honor system.

These criticisms of the proposed plan, however, are based on a false conception of the purpose of the honor system itself. It was never intended and should not now be construed as a policing program with the primary purpose of apprehending violators of the system. Rather, it is a plan to propagate and to inculcate the principles of honor. Successful operation of the honor system would not result in many, but few reports of violations.

Confidential statistics compiled by reliable foundations and responsible corporations show that the graduates of honor system schools are more trustworthy workers than the graduates of monitor system schools. They have a highly developed sense of responsibility; they are accustomed to being trusted; they can be relied upon to do assigned jobs without constant and irksome supervision.

It is that consciousness of responsibility and trustworthy independence which distinguishes the good citizen from the poor, the faithful worker from the shiftless. The honor system purposes to develop these qualities. An education which makes no contribution to character is indeed incomplete.

Punishment is an ineffectual means, in most cases, of developing moral stamina. To ship a man from college is only to

remove a single evil influence. By impressing that same man with the contemptible weakness of cheating and the moral value of honesty, campus society might save him from his own folly, and ten more like him.

The honor system should be conceived as a method of nourishing the growth of moral tissue; punishment for violations of honor is an operation to remove tissue that is decayed beyond recovery. This operation may cure the patient, but there is also the possibility of killing him. Surely inoculation against the disease is preferable to a dangerous operation of doubtful effectiveness.

If this conception of the honor system is understood, it is simple to answer the arguments of the practical-minded objectors to the student council's new system. Actually, it is not the primary purpose of the proposed plan to have more students reported for cheating; that is a secondary motive; the apprehension and punishment of offenders is a last resort, an emergency operation.

The new system is merely an educational program. By bringing the new students into closer touch with student government, it would make them aware of the presence of the honor system and of the consequences of dishonesty. By electing their own honor committees and from seeing these men every day, they would come to realize some individual responsibility for student government.

It matters little that some spineless student might be reluctant to act as a classroom committeeman or to report his friends or that the committeemen might be incompetent to judge the guilt of offenders.

If these committees never report a case, and yet a stronger sense of responsibility and moral integrity is imparted by their presence, the system will have admirably performed its purpose.—E.C.D.

OUR TIMES

By Don Shoemaker

Calculator

It was Ted Husing, we believe, who insisted on referring to Dr. Sol Finklestein, the "Lightning calculator," as "Dr. Frankenstein" as Columbia broadcasted the election returns Tuesday night. Finklestein was hired by C. B. S. to calculate the popular vote as it came in over the wires, figure out percentages and electoral vote etc., and in general make himself useful as a human adding machine. This, Mr. Finklestein does without the aid of any mechanical contrivance—even a pencil and paper. Figures it all out in his head.

He first got his fame when it was revealed that he could survey a passing freight train and total the box car numbers with lightning rapidity. Then he began to appear on the lecture platform and before various university groups. You could shout numbers of five digits at him and he'd come back with the total in something over a second. Never much at the mathematics game ourselves, we agree with Mr. Husing that Finklestein is something of a monstrosity after all.

All Quiet

Now that it's all over, we can rest in our favorite arm chair and offer thanks every hour that elections come once in every four years. In 1930, when we were covering the board of elections headquarters for a morning newspaper and dispatching copy boys every ten minutes with totals of precincts, we turned up at about three-thirty that morning with two precincts missing. Luckily, it was a Democratic landslide, so those two

precincts didn't matter. Never found them anyway and had to toss a coin to choose the figures and keep from losing our job. Tuesday night, with the first four of the seven Roosevelt digits recorded in the press time totals, somebody blew a fuse controlling our radio, and we must confess that we had to fake about twenty votes here and there, but in the long run it didn't matter. Anyhow, a good reporter is always impartial, unless of course, he works for the *News and Observer* or the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Life and Letters

By Edith Harbour

MOURNING BECOMES ELECTION, OR THE LATEST A.P. DISPATCHES FROM EUGENE O'NEILL.

Election night... The fate of a nation hangs in the balance... Yea, even the governmental trend for the next hundred years will be decided by the outcome of this presidential election if one candidate knew whereof he spoke... Big business or the forgotten man?... Unemployment rampant in the land or a job for every man?...

The will of the people be done... Ben Bernie, the old maestro, announcing that election returns from 49 states, including the state of hysteria, gave one candidate 20,793 votes and the other 17,891. Which votes belonged to which candidate he did not know. But then was the figgers. He then wished both candidates many happy returns of the day... Somebody loses, somebody wins... Who'll be secretary of the treasury?...

Wisecracking radio announcers... The candidate with two o's in his name is bound to win... A new deal is advocated by both Stuart Chase and Ely Cuthbertson... Another state goes for Roosevelt... David Lawrence's clipped tones which in a moment of hopelessness gave way to sobs... Roosevelt was elected just as I expected; Climbing up the golden stairs. Hoover's telegram conceding the election... The "hard times" statement issued by Republican headquarters in Chicago... The millions of votes which "vindicated" the policies of a mighty president... A change in administration is always good for the country... Happy days are here again... The depression is waning... Prosperity is just around the corner... Capitalism is covering in the dust... Norman Thomas also ran and issued a "victory" statement... The world is again safe for democracy.

With

Contemporaries

Editorials printed in this column are selected weekly by the editorial board on the basis of pertinency and style from the exchange list of college and national dailies and weeklies.

Not So Different

The new experimental plan being sponsored within the school of journalism should at least yield some very interesting results in the long run. Professor Lawrence W. Murphy, director of the school of journalism, reports five men and five women, for this plan are not much different from those selected by the normal run of students.

The plan is based upon the scholarship ranking during the first two years in what is now a pre-journalism curriculum incorporated within the college of liberal arts and sciences. Those who have the highest ranking scholarship records are permitted to register in whatever courses they choose during their last two years of school before getting their degree. The plan thus far is revealed to the students, and the ultimate value of the plan to the students and consequently to the school is not to be told lest the desired results be held in mind by the journalistic guinea pigs.

Up to this time the programs selected by the group are somewhat depressingly normal. Perhaps those who planned the normal program do not believe that the program is depressing, but it seems that there should be some among these students who would select courses outside the regular outlined curriculum. To hear the students talk in everyday conversation you would think that they were horribly held down by the requirements and outlined courses within a school or college on the campus, but the actions of these ten chosen students in selecting their programs for the semester indicate that the new found freedom wasn't exactly as liberating as they once thought.

Perhaps the students are not as yet fully aware of the fact that they have the privilege of taking any sort of course within the University for which they have the pre-requisites. Of course, the old gag of pre-requisites within a school being used on account of the major and minor requirements prevents many of these courses from being utilized on account of needless pre-requisites.

For any experiment of this nature no definite results will be obtained until after graduation of the first group. The scholastic results will be available at that time, and the practical value of the experiment will be forthcoming after graduation. If this experiment works in the school of journalism it might be a good idea for having a similar plan made elective for the upper group of students in other colleges within the University.—*Daily Illini*.

Solid citizens in North Carolina who have been troubled by the fear of radicalism growing in the colleges and universities may shiver with renewed vigor at learning that not only they are troubled but all the world.

There is growing in the educated youth of the world an "educated proletariat," according to the annual report of the Institute of International Education, an organization of leanings capitalistic enough to have a partner in the House of Morgan on its board of trustees.

If Youth Goes Red

In practically all of the European countries, the report says, the universities have graduated annually since the war highly educated young men and women for whom there is no apparent future, and "the accumulation has become so great as to menace the existence of the present social order." They believe that the existing regime has nothing in store for them and that nothing can be lost by a change.

In the United States, the report goes on, down to the commencement of 1930, it was a pretty poor college graduate who could not find profitable work within a few months of graduation. During the past two years such happy conditions have not existed and "there is no evidence that they will exist again in the immediate future."

Today the Institute finds of American college youth: They have little faith in the political and economic leadership of the period since the World War, even of today. They have many questionings concerning the pillars upon which our present social order exists, capitalism, democracy, and the organization of our political life

under the Constitution.

If this report, endorsed by a list of notable names, can be given credence, the radicalism rising in the colleges is not caused by the ravings of a few irresponsible professors but by the present failures in the capitalistic system. Viewed from this light, there is nothing very strange about the manifestation of radicalism. If economic conditions better themselves, the probability is that the radicalism will pass with the depression, but a youth facing a world and a system which have nothing to offer him is not apt to be deeply impressed with the sacred institutions through which his elders shaped their future in happier times.

Not the colleges but the world outside them is responsible if youth is radical, communistic or given in any manner to say, "Oh Yeah?" to the sacred vows of his parents and people.—*News and Observer*.

Alienating Students From Religion

We should not be at all surprised if the recent address which Dr. William C. Covert (official of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education) made to the students of Princeton Theological seminary has seriously shaken the religious faith of many thoughtful young men, not only at Princeton but wherever his rather unsound and unwise address was reported.

We know, of course, that there are large numbers of religious leaders who would prefer to do all the thinking for students in matters of religion, morals, and life philosophies generally. Fortunately there are many more who realize that religious faith of any sort is invalid unless it has been tested by doubt and competition with other points of view.

Dr. Covert is not of this latter school, evidently. He would warn students to beware coming into any sort of contact with the thoughts and views of non-orthodox thinkers. On his particular black-list occur these brilliant names: Prof. Max C. Otto, Bertrand Russell, Walter Lippmann, Dr. A. Eustace Haydon, H. L. Mencken, Prof. John Dewey.

Now, you simply cannot, among intelligent men, advance any point of view by opening your campaign with an attack on the good faith, judgment, and honesty of men who hold opinions opposite your own; more especially is this true when these same men have by their force of character and intellect become warmly dear to your listeners.

It would be rather difficult to make a happier choice of modern thinkers to whom thoughtful young men and women give their allegiance of beloved respect, than the group Dr. Covert has singled out for attack as being "responsible more than anything else for the belief that culture and theistic faith are mutually antagonistic."

Prof. Max Otto, brave teacher of brave ideals at Wisconsin. Bertrand Russell, the British nobleman who crusades indefatigably for individual liberty and courageous thinking; Dr. Eustace Haydon, professor of comparative religion at Chicago, author of the beautiful "bible" of humanism, "The Quest of the Ages"; H. L. Mencken, joyous smasher of ugly idols and last-ditch individualist; Walter Lippmann, who would see moral codes brought to harmony with our time; Prof. John Dewey, who would connect philosophy with life.

If Dr. Covert thinks that intelligent young men and women will be held or led back to the arms of the church by inveighing against these men, he is in gross error. If there is no place in religion for the idealism and

To Our Hall Of Fame

We Nominate

That WGN (Chicago) radio announcer, who, after expounding the merits of ex-Tar Heel Kemp and his orchestra, stated for the second time in one week that the band originated at the University of South Carolina.

CONFERENCE OF COLLEGES MEETS TODAY AT NOON

(Continued from first page)

Members of the University faculty serving on conference committees are: Professor A. M. Jordan, committee on college admissions; Dean A. W. Hobbs, committee on athletics; R. M. Grumman, committee on credits and standards for correspondence and extension courses; R. B. House and Professor W. C. Jackson, committee on tuition charges which was appointed to carry on a study of this problem over a period of five years; Dean Francis F. Bradshaw, committee on student mortality; Professor E. K. Plyler, committee on science equipment for standard college work in physics, chemistry, biology, home economics, and general science; and Registrar T. J. Wilson, Jr., committee on necrology.

DR. PIERSON SENT AS DELEGATE TO MEETING IN IOWA

(Continued from first page)

most educational body in America. Texas and Virginia are the only other universities from the south that are members.

Last year the University of North Carolina was host to the delegation in Chapel Hill. Sixty-seven representatives attended and met in the chamber of the Dialectic senate. Dean John C. McLennan, of the University of Toronto, presided.

The association was founded "for the purpose of considering matters of common interest relating to graduate study."

Looks like they are getting the world in shape to hand it over to the meek.—*Brunswick Pilot*.

character of these men, religion has become a poor thing indeed.—*University of Wisconsin Cardinal*.



Edward G. ROBINSON and Richard ARLEN in First National's Sea Adventure

"Tiger Shark"

with ZITA JOHANN

Blood tingling battles with terrible man-eating monsters! A thousand thrills on the high seas... and the romance of a girl who could not wait for love!



Also—Act—News Screen Song NOW PLAYING CAROLINA