

# The Daily Tar Heel

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Wednesday, April 12, 1933

## Declaring vs. Debating

The Di and Phi societies organized the High School Debating Union among high schools in North Carolina back in 1912 in an effort to encourage debating in a systematic fashion on the part of the high school students of the state. The idea was to have triangular debates out in the state with the winners coming to Chapel Hill each spring for further debating in the finals.

From the start the triangular feature was dropped in the competition held in Chapel Hill, and it was replaced by a system of mere declaiming by the speakers, and a physical endurance contest for judges, University student assistants, debaters, and Chapel Hill hostesses.

As the competition is now handled here each spring, the debaters are divided into groups of eight, for example, four negative teams and four affirmative teams. These eight teams gather in the various auditoriums on the campus Thursday night at 7:00 o'clock. The first affirmative team and the first negative team speak, and on down the line in alternate fashion. No decision is given by the judges until all eight teams have spoken. Then these patient judges, after listening to something over four hours of steady declaiming and no debating, name the best affirmative and the best negative teams that appeared before them.

Then Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock the surviving affirmative teams hold forth in one hall before only the judges, while the negative survivors speak in another hall. This lasts well on past 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon before one affirmative and one negative team are named to compete Friday night in the finals. It is then too late to call to Asheville or New Bern to tell the folks to come up for the finals.

The only real debating is done Friday night between the best speaking affirmative team and the best speaking negative team in the state. All the preliminary competition in Chapel Hill has been nothing but a lot of declaiming which has fatigued the contestants and killed what interest there might have been on the campus here for attending any of the high school debates.

There may be some who feel that the old order should continue, but the DAILY TAR HEEL suggests that in view of the numerous dissenters to this theory, the High School Week Committee call a meeting of the various coaches before the ceremonies are over this week to ascertain their feelings on the matter. We also suggest that the system of triangular debates might be carried on here in the finals Thursday night so actual debaters instead of declaimers will be uncovered.

## After the Battle Is Over

Now that the heat and fluster of the campus elections are over, one may take stock, so to speak, of the general results in terms of the elements which characterized the campaign.

The first important manifestation of the elections was the tremendous amount of interest elicited from the student body. Practically every position was hotly contested in view of the fact that both tickets contained excellent men for almost every office. The evenly balanced strength of the two parties made it practically impossible to foretell individual results and in the few cases which admitted of prediction, there were upsets recorded. One fact which should have caught the attention of most careful observers was the election of manifestly weaker men for some offices. This situation impresses one forcibly of the great dangers of a system whereby two strong political parties may contest the elections. Under this condition the possibilities of weaker, poorer qualified candidates being elected through the popularity and strength of a few major office-seekers are maximized.

Another striking situation appears in the case of the elections of the editors of the several publications. It is with a certain amount of mixed feelings that one takes cognizance of the fact that three of the four successful candidates were not the choices of their respective staffs. Only the editor-elect of the *Yackety Yack* received this double commendation. This state of affairs has never before been witnessed here at the University and will in all probability result in a vigorous renewal of the fight to have the various publication staffs elect their own editors.

The third and last characteristic which impressed this writer concerning the recent elections was the generally sportsman-like attitude of the defeated candidates. In the face of a hard three-year struggle for the top,—then expectations of a victory as recompense—and then loss—it is extremely hard to take one's defeat philosophically; but most of them did, and in so doing reflected the true spirit of the University of North Carolina. Truly, these men "were great in victory, but greater in defeat."—V.J.L.

## Without Honor In Its Own Country

The University has long been recognized as one of the foremost institutions of its kind in the country. As a seat of education, of culture and tradition, there are few places elsewhere that can surpass our record. Yet a great majority of the student body fails to take advantage of one of its most worthwhile activities, debating.

As a means of securing an unbiased, lucid outlook upon some of the major problems of the day there is no better way than attendance at, or participation in debates. By hearing both sides of a question expressed intelligibly without the same pressure upon one certain side of a question as is usually found in a class where a professor's arguments must be accepted for the most part.

It is the aim of the debate council to sponsor debates in which there is no attempt to coerce anyone in attendance to adopt a particular viewpoint, and for this reason almost all the debates in which the University is represented are no-decision debates where the audience is permitted to take either side on the basis of the arguments presented.

Every student on the campus pays a fee of fifty cents a year to be used in debating, but the maximum audience at any debate here in quite a while has been between thirty-five or forty, a number of which are townspeople who have no part in the financial support of debating. Not only are audiences of any number lacking, but there is practically no desire upon the part of the students to participate in this activity.

The University of North Carolina has such a widespread reputation for its ability in debating that we are asked to debate with practically all the leading educational institutions in the United States. When debate teams come to America from England, the University always schedules a debate with them. At Western Reserve and the University of Pittsburgh, the two best known debating universities, the University is given the leading debate every year. It is indeed strange that an activity of the University which is known in so many other places for its excellence is not known at all on its own campus. It is time that the students recognize the existence of debating here and seek to obtain the good from it that would be so easily forthcoming.—F.P.G.

## To Be or What to Be

With the present year fast drawing to a close a thought or two might well be given to next year's problem of fraternity rushing. The present system undoubtedly functions as well as any that permits pledging within the first few weeks of the year. Many freshmen come to college with a certain fraternity so deeply impressed on their minds that they will not even consider any other. The general excitement of the first few weeks coupled with the intensive and extensive rushing, leaves them so befuddled that it is next to impossible to make an intelligent choice.

Deferred rushing would be equally beneficial to fraternity and freshman. Although most new men are previously recommended to some lodge or lodges, there is the question of their fitting in. If any group is to function co-ordinately they must have more in common than the ordinary goal of all students. Every group on the campus, like every individual, has more or less definite characteristics and in order for any pledge to be perfectly satisfied with his choice he must find that group with which he can work and live to the best advantage of all. To do that in the short period now provided is a very difficult undertaking.

By providing an additional month or two the number of disillusioned pledges and organizations would be greatly diminished, for it would be impossible for either faction to keep its rushing personality to the fore throughout that long a period. Each group would be able to observe the other as they actually are instead of as they appear to be. It would give the quieter chap a chance to become better acquainted and better known and would at the same time reveal the real character of the "shining first nighters."

The system has been tried at many colleges and has met with success in almost every instance, the main objection being primarily the lack of much needed financial support at the early part of the year after the previous year's loss by graduation. However, if a few dollars are more important than a careful selection of men, the real purpose of the fraternity seems to be waning.—L.M.J.

# THE THEATRE

The German war-play, *Der Flieger* (Aviators), by Herman Rossmann, Saturday evening, the Playmakers theatre.

Reviewed by W. T. Couch  
The play has been an unusual success on the German stage. The theme is old and of universal interest—the dramatic conflict between the desire to live and the necessity of performing duties which mean death. The only obstacle to full appreciation on the part of an English-speaking audience was that the performance of *Der Flieger* Saturday night was given mostly in German. Two other languages, French and English, occurred only now and then.

Language Is Obstacle  
In spite of the formidable obstacle of a foreign language, the play caught and held the interest of the audience, with very few lapses, from beginning to end. The first act was somewhat slow, especially in the part where the volunteer Mueller confesses his inability to bring himself to the point of making his parachute jump. Mueller's fright impressed the audience as being more that of the stage than of a soldier mortally afraid to do his duty. Mueller had dreams that his parachute would fail to open, that he would be dashed to death. This part of the play is important since it forebodes the fate of Mueller and the corresponding fate of Lieutenant Frank, the hero and the chief of the flying squadron. Mueller is tortured with dreams of his fate. Frank also dreams that he will meet death at the hands of the flying English Colonel who has brought down his former commanders. But Frank has to order Mueller to make his parachute jump, and he has to go ahead and fight the Colonel even though he feels certain death will ensue. He orders his subordinates to avoid combat with the Colonel because he knows the Colonel is a superior fighter. It is his duty and his alone to reckon with this most skillful of the opposing pilots.

Although this part of the play was somewhat slurred by the failure of Mueller adequately to carry his part, the finished performance of Bolle, (G. Helinger), Frank, (Dr. Spann), Hensch, (B. Thurman), and Aimee, (E. Stewart) insured the success of the first act. The love-making scene with Aimee was a thorough test of ability to act. It was evidence of unusual competence on the part of Dr. Spann and Miss Stewart who played the roles of Frank and Aimee.

Acting Inconsistent  
There were a number of breaks in the quality of the acting, but fortunately none of these breaks occurred in any of the parts involving the more important characters.

Shirtbreaker  
The great moment in the play came when the English Colonel challenged Frank to a duel in the air and Frank broke his appointment with the seductive Aimee and went to meet him. Beverly Thurman as Hensch, ably seconded by Foster Fitz-Simons as the English prisoner Leeds, carried the final scene in superb style.

Play Well Written  
This scene was filled with opportunities for ineffectiveness and maudlin failure. It called for military stiffness, many salutes, and blind devotion to ideals which today are generally regarded as unworthy. But the playwright handled his difficult materials so that attention was focused on the greatness of Frank's character rather than the smallness of the cause for

which he had to die. And of course, measured by any realistic standard, the author is right. Men often do have to die for causes that appear to be senseless. This aspect of the problem was handled with extreme skill. The whole performance must have been in entire conformity with the author's intention.

The play is going to be presented again on the Playmaker stage during the latter part of May.

# Autopsy

By Robert Berryman

## GRAND SLAM

A few days ago in Aycock dormitory a small group of students sat, playing poker. The room, an unoccupied one, they had entered through the window.

A dispute arose over the division of a pot, and one of the gentlemen smacked another in the snoot. From the injured member ran blood . . . and more blood. Onto the cards, onto the table, onto the floor it ran.

The injured player left the hubbub to seek repairs for his injured member; the others, fearing that the noise might have drawn unwelcome visitors, were gathering themselves together to depart—when who should stick his head through the door but Ellis Fysal! It is his job to report gambling, drunkenness, and bad conduct among the students.

"What's going on here?" he demanded, noting the blood, the cards, and the overturned chairs. "What's happened?"

"Nothing," spoke up the man who had just popped the other guy in the nose. "Nothing's happened.—We were playing bridge and when my partner re-doubled my three no-trump bid, I hit him!"

## Qualified

The smoke of political battling having cleared away, it may now be appropriate to note as qualifications for the various offices what some candidates offered:

One man offered, as an inducement to have you vote for him for the Vice-President of the Student Body, the fact that he had been on the *varsity wrestling squad*.

Another thought that because he had been the *Junior Dance Leader*, you would be inclined to prefer that he edit the campus literary organ.

The editor of the annual picture book, someone felt sure, you would want to have been a member of the *freshman tennis squad*.

—But the prize-winner of them all was the ambitious young chap who expected you to support him for the office of *Treasurer of the Senior Class* because he was a *self-help student!!!*

## Shirtbreaker

It was down at the dear ole Pika house, and a goodly crowd was there. One poor lad, in the heat of campaigning, had had several of his shirts torn off. He walked gingerly; his last was upon his back. Soon, alas!, that too was reduced to a mass of shreds.

Undaunted, he was again seen, radiant in new finery.

Don Shoemaker, a brother, approached him with a malevolent gleam in his usually innocent eyes. Sneaking up behind his prey, he grasped the collar of the recently-donned shirt—and r-r-rip!

Standing there triumphant, with his prize proudly held in his clenched hand, he happened to look at it more closely. His face changed color as he noted the laundry mark: "D.C.S.!"

# SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

## Down With The Tyrants

The DAILY TAR HEEL states that the "Bids for the Junior-Senior dances will go on sale May 10." Perhaps it would be wise for the class officials directly responsible for the class fees, that have been entrusted to their care, to give some itemized account of what has become of the money paid to cover the necessary expenses of the class. To those of us who have paid \$8.50 in class fees, it seems an outrage that we should be forced to buy the dance bids that we have already paid for. In case we are so unfortunate as not to possess one dollar extra to pay for the bids on May 12-13, what is to become of the funds already paid in? Shall that money already paid by us be confiscated for the use of those who are blind enough to be sucked into paying the dollar and attending the dance?

Furthermore, why pay such an enormous price for an orchestra for the dance when others, such as Jelly Leftwich, can be obtained at a much more reasonable price. Such actions seem to be carried too far in an insane desire to seek publicity at the expense of those who are unfortunate enough to be subjected to the rule of the executive committees of the junior and senior classes.

M. T. CAMERON.

## FRATERNITY BUYERS WILL MEET TONIGHT

Members of the Fraternity Buyers' association will meet tonight at 7:15 o'clock at the Service Insurance agency company, for the purpose of electing officers to serve next year. All new house managers and fraternity treasurers are requested to attend with the old representatives.

The association was organized last spring for the purpose of promoting co-operation between fraternities in buying equipment, to reduce the expense borne by each fraternity.

## STUDENTS TO ORGANIZE ARCHERY CLUB TONIGHT

Students, members of the faculty, and others interested will attend a meeting tonight at 7:30 o'clock in room 209 of Graham Memorial for the purpose of organizing an archery club. Experience is not essential for membership.

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