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TO HELP SOMETHING BETTER GROW

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1936.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Smith College Provides Individualized Instruction For Best Students To Counteract Herd Education

By the provision of special honors, Smith College gives to students of outstanding ability opportunities which cannot be realized in the ordinary work of the classroom. The rate of progress aimed at in college courses is determined by the rough averaging of the capacity of all the students in them with the result that, while this rate is barely maintained by the weakest students, it is far from keeping the ablest employed. These latter, who should contribute most to the intellectual life of the college, are likely on the contrary either to fall into habits of intellectual loafing or to occupy their too abundant leisure by a disproportionate amount of nonacademic activities. The objection to a uniform pace for all abilities applies also to a uniform method of instruction. Frequent recitations and lectures may be the best means of keeping some students intellectually awake; for others, they are unnecessary and wasteful. After a good student has acquired habits of study and keen intellectual interests, she needs leisure for thinking and large quantities of solid reading rather than hours a day of classroom work. Furthermore, after the range of subjects required by our curriculum in the first two years, she is ready for a more intensive application to some chosen field, so that at the end of her college course she may carry away not merely a great variety of scraps of knowledge but power and method for the mastery of one field and its correlated parts. Too often college students regard the subjects covered in courses as things apart; they pigeonhole the information so derived, and, after the examinations are over, they tie up each bundle of facts and put it away, seldom realizing the relation these facts may have to others acquired subsequently. In the work for special honors each candidate, excused from courses and from examinations which terminate them, is given every opportunity to view the various subdivisions of her work as one

This article is an explanation of the special honors plan at Smith college designed to free exceptional students from the herd methods of our traditional educational system and allow them to do independent work under the guidance of an adviser. This explanation was sent to us by Miss Margaret Denny, secretary for the committee on special honors at Smith. Italics are

connected whole. Her study should therefore lead both to a deeper understanding of her subject than is normally gained by the student who follows the usual curriculum. . . .

Students Freed from Class

Recognizing these principles the faculty approved in 1921 a scheme by which, at the end of the sophomore year, students having a general average of at least B, or in exceptional cases, students whose work in the department of their choice is highly recommended as showing their unusual ability though their general average may not be so good, are permitted to apply for candidacy for honors in a special field. . . .

Those students whose application has been approved by the committee on special honors and by the department in which their chief study is to be followed are relieved during the last two years of the routine of class attendance and course examinations. Each student comes under the guidance of a General Director of her work, who plans with her a series of eight units of study in her chosen field, two units being equivalent to the full work of the semester. . . . The work is carried on . . . under the guidance of special instructors by means of suggested readings, written reports, and by conferences, weekly or fortnightly, in which these reports are criticized and instruction given for the preparation of others. The instruction is therefore planned for the individual student; but, should several candidates elect to follow the same work with the same instructor, a small group may be combined in a little seminar or class for report and discussion. Each candidate will be allowed, as far as is practicable, to choose her special instructors. Honor students may in any semester be advised or required to attend such courses or parts of courses as seem advantageous for the pursuit of the selected studies; but these students are not thereby obliged to fulfill the class requirements or to take the final examination in these courses. The two units of the last semester of the senior year are to be devoted to the writing of a long paper on some subject chosen within the student's field, and to a general review preparatory to an extensive examination covering the whole range of study of the last two years. . . .

Candidates for special honors are exempted from all requirements exacted in the case of other students during the junior and senior years. . . .

Honors are awarded in three grades: Honors, High Honors, and Highest Honors, according to the quality of the work done. In the event of a student's failing to be awarded one of these grades at the end of her senior year, she may yet be granted a pass degree if her work is of sufficient merit.

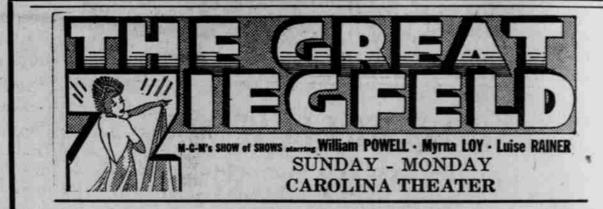


Dr. Raymond Adams was trying to explain to his English 81 class the difference between organic and inorganic unity. After several illustrations, Jim Frazer threw further light on the subject by saying, "There are two kinds of feet, one organic like the four feet of a pig, the other inorganic like in a heroic couplet." This declaration was greeted by a series of groans from his classmates.

Boyden "Bone" Brawley visited Germany this summer and has on exhibition in his room on Cameron avenue a number of interesting articles. These include a musical stein that plays every time it is picked up, a glass boot mug, a dancing doll, and a Hitler dagger.

Jack Peterson of New Bern. who prepped at the King's Business college in Raleigh, is a song writer of some note. His recent "I've Got Some Loving to Do" may explain his periodic trips to the capital city.

"In many countries of Europe the school system is far superior to ours," stated Tom Stanback of Salisbury who made a two months' tour of Europe this past summer.



HOW SMITH DOES IT

ours .- Ed. Note.

For This Issue News: Newton Craig. Sports: Will G. Arey, Jr.

If The Shoe Doesn't Fit

TUESDAY night the Phi assembly voted 21-10 to abolish the University's present grading system. To thrash out the question, the assembly devoted two full meetings, and before voting made a study of the academic set-up at the University of Chicago.

Recently the faculty committee on instruction met with a group of representative men and women students to talk over mutual problems of "gettin' educated."

This student interest in the educational organization of the University is significantly wholesome. Students may not have views as mature as members of the faculty, but they know one thing about college no professor or dean can ever know —and that is how it feels to be a student.

Sold Out

"MR. TOM" Battle is a very sad darky today. For days, he and the other waiters around at the boarding house have been talking about nothing except the "big game Saddy."

Today "Mr. Tom" found out that all seats in the section usually reserved for Negroes had been sold out.

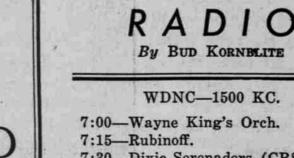
At every home game "Mr. Tom" and his colored friends have always been on hand in the section set aside for them, cheering for Carolina. And every time their faith in the Tar Heel eleven has been justified.

Saturday our team meets the biggest test of the year. Somehow, even though the colored section of the stadium be packed with \$2.50 paid admissions, we are going to miss "Mr. Tom" and his friends.

But even if we have sold them out, they won't stay away. If you happen to meet a grey-haired old darky outside the stadium as you leave Saturday, and he asks you all about the game, be a good sport and tell him. Because the chances are he wanted to see that game even more than you. S. W. R.

• On The Flying Trapeze

CO-ED DATE and no place to go . . . To combine the features of soda fountain, cafe, lounge and dance hall, Duke university has long had its Arc



7:30-Dixie Serenaders (CBS). 8:05-Around the Town. 8:30-Family Album. 8:45-Songs Without Words. 9:00-Major Bowes' Amateurs - (CBS). 10:00-Then and Now (CBS). 10:30-News. 11:00-Artie Shaw's Orch.

11:30-Eddie Duchin's Orch. 12:00-Ozzie Nelson's Orch.

7:05-Dance Hour. 7:15-Music Is My Hobby (NBC). 7:30-Harmoneers. 7:35-Radio Night Club. 8:00-Negro Achievement Week Program.

WPTF-680 KC.

8:30-Rochester Phil. Orch. (NBC). 9:00-Show Boat (NBC). 10:00-Bing Crosby, Bob Burns (NBC).

MISC. PROGRAMS 8:00-WBT-Kate Smith. WEAF-Rudy Vallee's Varieties.



"NO NO DRAFT VENTILATION____ NO DATE .. I JUST GOT A PERMANENT"



his young lady just said a telephone full. And when you come to think of it, she's right. There is no reason for not having a car with such modern conveniences, when General Motors is able to produce and sell its cars in such volume you get these im-



DER FUEHRER McKELLAR

Senator McKellar says there ought to be a law against straw polls. He says he will sponsor legislation putting these balloting indicators under "strict Federal supervision." Furthermore, the Senator is hell-bent to conduct a probe of the Literary Digest poll.

Probably no one regrets the erroneous outcome of the Digest poll more than the editors of that publication. The Digest tried hard to predict the election; but, as the Old Ward Heeler says, "they just didn't have what it took."

where fellows could drop in nights and really show their dates a good time. Nice on the dates ... and on the daters ... too.

Reuben Graham's junior class heads, dropping rumors out of their huddle last week, have hit upon the idea of turning old Bynum gym into a campus social hall, say twice a week. Non-fraternity men can drop in with their dates and dance, eat at a refreshment booth, and see the crowd. No mean idea, at all. And they can let the girls use the building for a gymnasium during the daytime.-J. M. S.

Senator McKellar is a very impulsive gentleman. Very probably he didn't mean what he said about Federal supervision of news organ polls. That supervision could be the ideal foothold for a fascist destruction of freedom of the press.

We prefer to believe, however, that Senator McKellar is just talking. We hope so.

Are We Becoming Educated?

(BERTRAND RUSSELL)

... All higher instruction should be given with a view to teaching the spirit and technique of inquiry rather than from the standpoint of imparting the right answers to questions.

provements at no extra price.



A Public-Minded Institution

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