

# The Daily Tar Heel

The official student publication of the Publications Board of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where it is published daily except Saturday, Monday, examination and vacation periods, and during the official summer term. Entered as second class matter at the post office in Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates mailed \$4 per year, \$1.50 per quarter; delivered, \$6 and \$2.25 per quarter.

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**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Cornell Wright, Ruffin Woody, Bill Stonestreet.  
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## Old Enough?

From time to time the question of lowering the voting age to 18 in North Carolina and other states comes up for discussion. Such a proposal was renewed recently at the opening of the state General Assembly.

So far only one of the 48 states—Georgia—has taken this step, which places several thousand new voters on the books. But I don't think Georgia need set a precedent for North Carolina.

The idea has wide superficial appeal. The most popular argument in its favor is that anyone old enough to fight for his country is old enough to vote—a high-sounding, though not necessarily logical deduction. If we were forced by a manpower shortage to start drafting 16 and 17-year olds, as some countries did in World War II, would that argument still hold true? If not there is a fallacy in the argument.

Would we revert to the 21-year requirement when and if a peaceful world no longer made soldiering a prerequisite for citizenship?

What about the girls? They aren't drafted at 18. Shall we tell them to come back in three years or just throw them in as a bonus?

It is a regrettable state of affairs that young men who have not yet exercised the most precious right of a democracy must serve as the advance guard of that democracy.

Is it unfair? Of course it's unfair! The whole concept of war is outrageously unjust to all youth. To reach into the maelstrom of war, isolate one situation and say, "This is unjust," is a pathetic almost useless gesture.

The eligibility to vote boils itself down purely to the question of whether or not a person is able to exercise this right in a wise and intelligent manner.

The average 18-year old is still in high school, usually his last year. He is about to graduate from America's greatest training ground in democracy—the public school. He has been studying how our government should work and how he as a citizen can improve it.

Many of these youngsters are serious-minded and mature beyond their years, but the majority, as we all know, are rather carefree and limit their profound thoughts and observations for the classroom.

They are well-informed to the extent of the views they garner from newspapers, civics class discussions and dinner table conversation. Since their teacher's interpretations exert a great deal of influence on their thinking, most of their ideas are formulated in the classroom.

But again, the classroom should be a training ground for citizenship, not a final test.

There should be a period when these academic ideas have time to fall into their proper relation to actual conditions, a period of crystallization, of adjustment to reality as opposed to theory. We all see big changes in our attitudes and our beliefs since we left high school. Some of them we recognize as juvenile and characterized by immature thinking. Leaving the protection of home and classroom, we find ourselves reassessing, taking a new account.

"But I always thought..." or "But I was always told..."—these are the signs of awakening that come when a person actually has to fight City Hall, resist the pressure of politics in his business make out an income tax report or wear a uniform. In short, it's the experience of watching this thing called democracy at work that counts.

I'm sure that the people advocating the 18-year-old vote are guided largely by their conscience and their intentions are the very best.

But issues are easily confused when viewed in the light and shadows of war, valor and death. It is therefore doubly important that the issues be lifted out, carefully scrutinized and evaluated on their own merits.

The Michigan State News, with unconcealed pride, tells of a student who became so engrossed in reading the News one day while walking to class that he walked spank into a deep construction hole.



## Merry-Go-Round

Washington — When the bands played back in Oregon, new Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay was usually to be found dressed up in a white cowboy costume and 10-gallon hat riding at the head of the parade. Here in Washington, as head of the 65,000-bureaucrat Interior Department, Governor McKay is more diffident, so far is not riding at the head of the parade.

Perhaps this is because so big a bureaucracy is new to him. Or perhaps it's because every new cabinet member, even the old curmudgeon Harold Ickes, feels shy about commanding bureau chiefs who have been 30 years in government as against his seven or eight days.

Several days before inauguration, conscientious Secretary McKay came to Washington, was given a desk in the Interior Department, attended staff conferences with retiring Secretary Oscar Chapman, and created quite a sensation in the Interior Department cafeteria by balancing his own tray and lunching with Commissioner of Reclamation Mike Straus.

If there is a controversial figure in all the Interior Department, or in all the West for that matter, it's Mike Straus. He has fought the big power interests, the big landowners, and most of the policies championed by the conservative wing of the GOP. Nevertheless, it was on Mike Straus that the new Secretary of the Interior leaned when, alone and uncomfortable amid a sea of staring faces, he ate his first lunch in the department of which he is now boss.

Douglas McKay is a friendly, energetic fellow who will probably get along well in Washington. He knows government far better than his General Motors cabinet colleague, Charles E. Wilson. As the biggest Chevrolet-Cadillac dealer in Oregon, for instance, McKay used to sell a lot of cars to the state. But when he became governor he quit selling cars to the state.

For the law or Oregon is similar to the federal law, and no state executive can buy from his own company. Aside from minor ignorance, McKay is not likely to make major mistakes. He's too smart and too cautious. He plays his cards close to his chest and he waits for a signal from the White House. He has been slow filling new Interior Department jobs, for instance, because he wants to see exactly whom his chief in the White House wants. And when put on the griddle by the Senate Interior Committee regarding the red-hot issue of private power vs public power, he carefully took a stand midway between. The two should cooperate, he said.

With the headlines focused on war and the threat of war, many people have forgotten about the Interior Department. In the days of honest Harold Ickes, it was considered so unexciting as far as honesty was concerned that the press seldom pried into it. And this rigorous, fish-bowl policy was continued under Secretary Oscar Chapman. However, it was only about 30 years ago that the Interior Department was the biggest boodler in Washington and that a Secretary of the Interior, Albert Fall, went to jail for giving away the public domain—when oilman Doheny's little black bag was passed his way.

Today, the Interior Department, though less in the headlines, is probably even more important than it was 30 years ago. Aside from the Defense Department it is the biggest dispenser of molasses in the entire United States. To it the lobbyists come flocking like flies around the Molasses Bowl. For a lot of new things have been discovered in "them thar hills" which Secretary Douglas McKay now holds under his command.

## On Other Campuses

The State Legislature's Advisory Budget Committee may intend that Carolina have little expansion money this year, but funds for other schools in the U.S. seem to be more readily available.

Since age has taken the beauty and time has left its sad scar on the journalism building at Kansas University, the "shack" is going down. The 70 year old structure has been home of the pharmacy, medicine, and journalism schools in turn. Since new buildings have been provided to house the departments, the wooden frame is being torn down.

As the budget committee said NO to a new UNC student union, students at West Virginia were compiling arguments for a new union there. Mountlair, the old institution, will burst at the seams by 1960 if the university enrollment reaches the expected 10,000 mark. Complaints registered against the present union are that you can't get your shoes shined, your hair cut, mail your laundry box, or have a formal dinner. Student unions at Iowa State, Oregon University, Ohio State, or University of Minnesota offer these luxuries. So why can't we have them", the argument goes.

The president at Purdue has released his annual report for 1950 boasting the new improvements of his university. He lists the new engineering building as a milestone in the widening scope of university activity. The school is proud of its new special services. Among them are the Hall of Music, a statistical laboratory and a math placement service.

Little red-topped stakes dot the Air Force drill field at Tulane. They represent not a giant game of croquet but the approximate site of two brand new dormitories. Next May the field will be crowded with construction. There will be no more drill teams, no more intramurals run there. But modern buildings of spacious living quarters and lounges will occupy the area.

Three institutions of higher learning have decided that it is high time they tackle the job of selling themselves to prospective customers.

San Diego State College is campaigning to clear up the vague idea that it is a college located somewhere "out in the sticks" of San Diego. The publicity committee plans to entertain high schools in their area each spring with variety shows and melodramas. Both types of program will be followed by explanations of campus life. The drive to educate will be climaxed with a senior day when the high schools will send their senior over for a guided campus tour and tea.

"Visitation project 1953" is underway on the Minnesota campus. Freshmen are being drafted to serve in the March and April attack on state high schools. About 100 schools will be rushed by the frosh who carry weapons of real enthusiasm for the university, knowledge of its ways and means, and good salesmanship.

Second and third year men at the UVA are plotting to snag a number of recruits for Virginia during the short vacation between semesters. Over 100 under-

## Express Yourself

In regard to your editorial entitled, "Weighed, Found Wanting" which appeared in the Thursday issue of the DTH, I find that the writer of the editorial played right into my hands when he used the phrase, Mongol idiot, because THAT description best fits my idea of what he must certainly be.

Of all the disgusting editorials I have ever read, I believe that it must take all honors. The Daily Tar Heel must be extremely pushed for material when it has to print such a narrowminded editorial as that one. The writer obviously believes that he is a great "thinker" and formulator of public opinion. Well, somewhere along the line he lost a few screws out of that machine which he calls a brain.

In my three years at Chapel Hill I have read countless editorials and articles on the lack of school spirit. So what happens? We finally regain that spirit during the Wake Forest game and get slayed in the face by your Mongol idiot for doing so.

I'm not denying that there was plenty of bitterness over that officiating of the game, but with such sloppy officiating as Mr. Bello and Mr. Williams performed, I see no reason why the booing should be condemned to the point of being called "uncivilized". You don't see the famous Brooklyn Dodger fans being lambasted in editorials for their booing, do you? What do you want us to do—sit on our fannies and say, "Bless you, Mr. Bello, but do you think that last call was cricket?"

You say also that there are various individuals in the state who will—on the basis of Tuesday's performance—look closely and suspiciously at Chapel Hill. I doubt that seriously when I find that most of the state newspapers devote a large part of the write-ups of the game to the "marvelous Carolina spirit".

And I guess you think you know more about it than our great coach, McGuire, who was quoted as saying, "I've appeared in many close game in Metropolitan New York, both as a player and as a coach, but I have never felt the impact of student support more than this night. It was the kind of spirit you get only in this part of the country. It's one big reason why I decided to accept the Carolina job." There's no slur in that statement.

You, Mr. Editorial (?) Writer call it animal hysteria. I call it appreciation—for a job well done by the players and the coach.

The title of the discussed editorial was most aptly named, "Weighed, Found Wanting". I weighed the editorial and found it wanting—wanting for the slightest iota of constructive criticism. Alexander Pope hit the proverbial nail on the head when he wrote—

"Tis hard to say if greater want of skill  
Appears in writing or in judging ill."

Jenks Robertson graduates will talk, chat, persuade, orient, explain, and encourage university prospects from their secondary schools. The proposal was born this winter and is yet in the experimental stages.

## "Speak Up, Mr. Professor"

To submit to authority with complacency is one thing. To submit under protest is another.

We recommend the latter to the Faculty Council today as it meets to discuss adoption of the semester system in carrying out the mandate of the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee, a mandate that was pigeonholed for four years, but which finally cropped up again in September with the committee's stipulation that Saturday classes be put into effect immediately.

The Trustees well know how students feel about Saturday classes. They haven't heard from the faculty in four years, however. The administration's viewpoint has already been cast aside. We suggest that the Faculty Council make a minority report on the values of the quarter system, plus a protest against the installation of Saturday classes.

The board of trustees set a dangerous precedent when they in effect rebuked the administration for not adopting the Saturday class plan. The administration and the faculty are also partly at fault for not coping in years past with trustee demands. All this is in the past. And in spite of these past failings, the full board should duly consider the opinions of its appointees, the administration and the faculty. We ask that the matter be brought up before the full board with a review of the success or failure of the present quarter system included.

## Study Tax Problem

Failure of the State Advisory Budget Commission to present a revenue bill, for the first time in history, is open to sharp questioning.

The revenue act under which the state presently operates was adopted approximately 20 years ago, and there has been little change indeed—no basic alteration as we recall, during the interval.

Yet during these 20 years the state itself has changed immeasurably. Its complexion has changed; its economy has changed; its pattern of needs, responsibilities and obligations has changed; and, along with all these changes, tax patterns and trends must have changed too.

In our thinking North Carolina's revenue act should be under continuous study. We should make sure that any loopholes and inequities are eliminated. We should keep it abreast of all factors, considerations and forces which affect the state's life and economy. We should be careful indeed that it applies fairly and effectively, that new sources of taxation which are doubtless developing, all the while are tapped and bear their proportionate share of the public expense. Taxes, revenue acts, become out-moded and ineffective with the passing of time and the changing of underlying conditions just as everything else does. Certainly North Carolina's long-standing revenue act, however good, fair and effective, is not perfect. Then why not take a look at it, not merely during legislative sessions but in continuing study all the while?

Does failure of the advisory budget commission reflect its own indifference to what may be happening or satisfaction with what we have or does it go still farther and raise the question of the effectiveness, the adequacy, the vigor and serviceability of existing tax research facilities?

The easiest way to pass a tax measure may be anything but the best way in so far as the public interest and welfare are concerned.

—GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS

## A New Slant

Ever see a Bible Study group? Dry, wasn't it? Some older person in the capacity of leader pointed out his views while his audience nodded their heads in agreement, more or less. The net value? Almost nil.

Here is a new concept. Students decided that they wanted a student-led group, organized it last week, and are just about to tackle Genesis on Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Congregational Church Hut. It's not a denominational meeting, and it's run on the principal of open discussion, so if you're interested, you're welcome to come.

