

## Roorbackers Ride Again

Campus roorbackers are beginning to appear on the political front as elections approach.

A "roorback"—for the benefit of those uninitiated in matters political—is a political lie, an old American tradition. It all started, so the history books say, in 1844.

In that year a whig newspaper ran a letter from a reader containing what was supposed to be a quotation from a book by a man called Roorback. The book was supposed to have said that an English traveler discovered 43 slaves branded with the initials of the Democratic candidate, James K. Polk.

Like most falsehoods perpetuated in the name of political campaigning, the original roorback was unfounded and was exposed. The real book quoted didn't even mention candidate Polk.

Perhaps so much political experience has made us sophisticated about lies in politics—even though we don't tolerate them in other phases of life. Those candidates now who are doling out unmitigated lies—and we know of some—may get by with their roorbacks, but, as the original one was discredited, we are certain the modern liars will be straightened out, too.

## To The Thickening Center

After a week or so of tossing the polished political apple of farm legislation back and forth, U. S. Senators finally gave up their pitch and toss. With marked anguish, Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois pronounced the proposals "so beautifully complicated that not even Solomon could administer it." Debate has abated; but the problem of the small farmer, the small farmer who was and would be the paragon of Jeffersonian democracy, has not abated.

North Carolina—with more small farmers than any state in the union—has a particular stake in farm debate. The small farmers of this state, as can be readily understood, do not care about the slippery words of Senator Dirksen, or about the Mormon steadfastness of Ezra Taft Benson, or about the Democrats' lack of persistence for rigid parity supports. They want something done. They want it done now. They need money. Their income is declining, and unless something may be done immediately about the shrinking farm pork barrel, they will have to move.

The Governor, and several state editorial writers, think that added industrialism is the answer. True, North Carolina can use more heavy and diversified industry. But is heavy industry, which can suck small farmers up into its lucrative and regimenting maw, the wise answer to the farm problem? Perhaps we have mistaken the real issue of the farm problem. Perhaps it is not so much an issue of whether to industrialize, or whether to subsidize farmers on a rigid parity basis. Perhaps, as the brothers Alsop suggested in a recent column which bit to the polished apple's core the real issue is whether we can afford to keep or to discard the small American farmer. In this interpretation, the problem becomes more than economic or political. It becomes moral, and constitutional; it becomes one which concerns the root and gut of American society, and only in ultimate impact the political democracy and the capitalistic economy erected atop that society. The Alsops put it this way:

In the end, no doubt, the real point will have to be recognized: That family-sized farms have a very great social value which makes a national investment to sustain independent farming a paying proposition for the long term. When that time comes, a distinction will somehow have to be made, between the big operators who have no claim to national support and the family-sized farmers who still constitute this Nation's roots in the American soil, over-urbanized as we unfortunately are.

A good case can be made, as the

## Dusty Pages Solicited

We were accosted in Bingham caverns yesterday by the English department's Miss Jessie Rehder, who administers the University's Putnam Prize Contest. Putnam's offers each year a handsome prize to

the best publishable manuscript by a student or faculty member at the University. But this year, Miss Rehder says, entries are scarce with the deadline fast approaching.

Doris Betts, the talented short story writer of Chapel Hill, formerly of Woman's College, Greensboro, gained nationwide literary acclaim two years ago with her book of short stories, *The Gentle Insurrection*. That collection, compared by some with Kipling's Best, won the University Putnam Award. The Putnam Prize, then, is not to be sneezed at. It is open to all who have manuscripts, either dusty or fresh, lying around.

Ye writers, fictional and general: Why hide your lights under a bushel?

## The Daily Tar Heel

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Editors—LOUIS KRAAB, ED YODER

## READER'S RETORT

# Refutes Dr. George's Racial Doctrine

Editors:

Professor George's explanatory letter in a recent Daily Tar Heel offers a welcome opportunity to examine some arguments, commonly raised in making comparisons of culture. He says that the Negro has not been shown to be inferior to the white race but that the former lacks the latter's drive for progress. His major premise, however, is that the white race has shown a stronger capacity to create a presumably better civilization than the Negro. My remarks will not discuss segregation but

propose to examine critically this premise.

1. Assuming that certain features of culture, whose benefits we in Europe and America enjoy, occur more frequently among Caucasoids than Negroids, is there any way of proving from this mere correlation that such aspects of culture are the result of innate drive? Crediting races with different innate drives to achieve civilization or progress is not different from asserting that one race is superior to another. The racial inferiority of the Negro (or any race allegedly lacking innate drive)

is once more asserted even though it has just been denied. Is not a glaring contradiction apparent in such reasoning?

### LEARNED OR INBORN?

Of course, the drive could be regarded as learned and not as an inborn motivation. In that case it becomes meaningless to speak of a danger to civilization lying in race mixture. However, a drive to build civilization by itself will be of little use to a community which is isolated from all possibilities of borrowing traits of culture from other communities. Comparative anthropological research indicates that a large part of any group's culture is not derived through domestic invention but represents the product of diffusion or borrowing. For a fuller account of such a nonbiological explanation of cultural differences the short pamphlet by Michael Leiris, *Race and Culture*, published by UNESCO may be recommended. Copies are available in the Book Exchange at 25 cents.

2. Now a more difficult and basic question. Are we certain that the Western system of culture is superior to the civilization, say, of Africa? The response may be made that obviously a civilization based on great technological control over nature and possessing patterns for organizing extraordinarily large number of people in nations is greater than one in which man lives in nature and organizes himself according to mutual respect and personal knowledge. (Africans, of course, had nations long ago, hardly all live in villages and clans, and are not without control over nature. However the overall cultural emphasis of that continent, at least where European influence has not been intense, may be in the direction just suggested.) Consider the uncertain ground of such an apparently obvious conclusion. The idea of greatness which we hold may not be obvious to people who occupy different vantage points for appraising the meaningfulness of life or who hold other assumptions regarding the role and destiny of man.

### SHRUNKEN WORLD

I am an anthropologist and in this role cannot be satisfied with measuring cultural creativity against easy and ethnocentric conceptions of greatness. Each people is motivated to make its own characteristic contribution to the bewildering mosaic of solutions for living meaningfully. Some people choose economic growth and material comfort (or, as the leading article in the February 24 New York Times Book Review Section suggests, are so organized that their leaders can force them to do so.) Others pursue roads whose very outline is difficult for us to perceive and sympathetically to understand, so great are our inevitable biases. Man lacks a philosophy or religion in terms of which all of these creations become compatible. It is even doubtful if such a philosophy can be successful. Paradoxically we live in one shrunken world but cannot find a standard for integrating ways of life extremely different from our own. Proselyting in religion or technical development constitute the most common responses to the problems posed by cultural differences. Perhaps in the western world anthropology (as a humanistic discipline) in a small way substitutes for such a philosophy. One of the tasks we do so imperfectly in anthropology is to try to overcome our cultural blinders in order to distinguish at least the gross outlines of divergent paths to self-realization.

John J. Honigmann

'Have No Fear, Madam, I'll Save Your Child'



AND PIE A LA MODE

## Romulo Likes An Early Start

By PEG HUMPHREY

General Romulo is a gentleman who likes to get an early start.

The Philippine Ambassador to the United States who embodies so much wit, charm and good fellowship is the epitome of Eastern graciousness and Western informality, as well as being a well-informed to make a great understatement) diplomat and preacher of world unity.

Each morning the former President of the United Nations General Assembly arises at 6 o'clock, and has read his three favorite newspapers by 7 o'clock when he is ready for breakfast and the day's business. He admits he's a rapid reader and cites his three favorite newspapers as the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Washington Post. "A good way to make me angry in the morning is not to bring me the Times," he chuckled. He praised the Times for its comprehensiveness and the Monitor for its objectivity.

Throughout their visit in Chapel Hill which proved to be a wet one, the Romulos were sparkling, cordial, and very stimulating. In regard to the unruly weather, General Romulo confided

to me at lunch that his wife was mostly concerned about her shoes. "She paid \$87 for them," he was saying when she nudged him vigorously in reprimand. The General managed to pay a good deal of respect and attention to the students who seemed captivated by his happy smile and quick sense of humor. A group of us were huddled in a corner of the Morehead dining room watching him in awe when the Ambassador approached and chatted congenially about the weather and other trivial subjects. He showed us his gold watch ("which I only wear with my tuxedo") and explained that it was given to him in Switzerland. "I didn't have to pay for it," he grinned.

HOSPITALITY

Southern hospitality won the praise of Romulo. Thursday evening after the lecture when he arrived back in his Carolina Inn room the general was seized by an acute hunger for some ice cream, cake, pie, or cookies. He phoned room service. "How about some gingerale?" suggested room service. Sparkling water and coffee were offered. Realizing they were prepared to offer nothing solid, the General agreed to some coffee. Some minutes later, room service appeared bearing huge portions of apple pie a la mode.

## Un-American Activities

What happens when a city has two newspapers owned by the same, wealthy family has painfully been shown to us this week. We refer to the yellow journalism practiced by the Durham newspapers in their overplayed coverage of the Charlotte hearings. From the size and tone of the Herald and Sun headlines one would think the House Un-American Activities Committee had discovered a master plot to make North Carolina a socialist republic of the Soviet Union.

A banner headline in Wednesday's Sun said: "RED ACTIVITY IN NAACP REVEALED." Yet the United Press story said no such thing at all; there was no evidence saying that Communists were active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is perfectly plain that the headline was political; that is, it was intended to discredit the NAACP for obvious reasons.

We would be interested in hearing what the ballyhooed fingerprinting in Charlotte accomplished. One man did lose his job, not because of what he believed, but simply because he was uncooperative. John V. Myers, a language teacher at Campbell College, was dismissed when he refused to discuss his religious and political beliefs.

The Un-American Committee has been content to identify Communist after Communist without ever getting to the vital question: Do these alleged Communists plan the violent overthrow of the government?

It is fashionable today, at least in this state, to condemn a man without a trial if he is alleged to be a Communist or if he invokes the First, Fifth or Fourteenth Amendment. With the passage of the Smith Act, Congress tried to curb Communist activities in this country. Gestapo-like methods, slipshod investigations and sensational journalism have wrought insecurity and unnecessary harm to innocent citizens. We fail to see the good of such maneuvers. —Duke Chronicle

## Alabama & The Law

University of Alabama trustees may have hit on a slick way out of their dilemma concerning Autherine Lucy. But they and Alabama citizens generally would do well to face up to the fact that in the long run there just isn't any way by which they can permanently evade their constitutional obligations as American citizens.

One of those obligations is to live peacefully in an orderly society based on law—law as interpreted by duly constituted courts.

United States District Judge H. Hobart Grooms was speaking for the whole judicial system and the whole concept of constitutional government when he ordered the university trustees to re-admit Miss Lucy.

His court, the judge said, would never be used as a beachhead of defiance of the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has explicitly ruled that qualified students cannot be denied admission to the state educational institutions on account of their race, and Judge Grooms was faithfully following that opinion in ordering Miss Lucy reinstated. He did what any conscientious Federal judge would have done.

In applying to the court for this order, Miss Lucy had at first charged the university trustees with conspiring to bring about the mob violence which caused her to be suspended. At the hearing, her lawyers withdrew this charge and admitted that they had no evidence to support it. Now the university trustees have seized on Miss Lucy's making of the unsupported charge as grounds for expulsion.

Possibly the trustees can sustain the expulsion without coming into contempt of court. But if they can, still they will not have solved or disposed of the problem before Alabama.

Sooner or later, if not through Miss Lucy then through somebody else, the issue must be faced again. And in the end there can be only one outcome. Alabama, like every other state, will have to make up its mind to live by law, not by mob violence; by the Constitution, not by anarchy; by the principle of equality before the law, not by the privilege of bigotry.

It is long past time when the good and progressive citizens of Alabama—and there are plenty of them—should have set about recapturing the leadership of their state from the fanatics who would defy law and Constitution. A state which can produce such fine Senators as John Sparkman and Lister Hill, the state of Hugo Black and Oscar Underwood, unquestionably possesses the human resources to recover its good name. The first step must be to demonstrate its rededication to a society based on law.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

## First Day Of Class Revealed

By Graham

You wander down into the room assigned to top chairs are scattered in rows around the one else has entered. Fifteen minutes before the official opening of a lecture for this semester the room to take a window. You can see out of a classroom with near the window.

You don't want a front of your class in front you are with your instructor and not with the first row that are not in the room.

### MIDWAY

Selecting a desk in the front, you gain a view of the trees outside; the room are gradually taken up. At 10 a. m. the instructor enters the room and stands behind the desks at the front.

Everyone hands in their papers, and the instructor moves up to the front of the room. This has been accomplished, the instructor looks over the room and out of the window back at the class and noddingly.

He says that it will while before he can give our names. He pauses a question had been raised around his desk. He him again, more closely, to see that he is a little. He must be new at this you think.

### POP-QUIZZES

A lengthy discussion about when he will give quizzes. Some persons know about the type of quiz he will give on tests. He gratifying smile, you inquires what kind we fer. Put to a vote, the questions are chosen by.

He mentions the theories and duties of our system. "We'll put up with it," he says. UNLIMITED CUTS

From the back of the someone asks him whether about giving unlimited cuts. He says that it is a good idea, but he comment further. Begins talking at one time the instructor glances with you at the back side. He is thin, lanky, and lanky. He seems this way, not unbecomingly his throat.

"Gentlemen," he doesn't know what you of this course; but I help you understand it from the perspective it is only an introductory this field."

You look out of the again. Others in the out their crossword puzzle few take notes. You do notes because what he will not be on a quick listen out of one ear.

## Not Logical

President Eisenhower is an issue in the has been brought in by the student himself and by his parents.

But this hardly crack of Congressmen Celler (Dem.), New York said of Mr. Eisenhower Commander in Chief of the Army physical examination going to run for reelection Commander in Chief of the ed forces."

Does Congressman believe that Franklin D. Roosevelt from the paralyzed from the could have passed a physical for any of his term, when his general also was failing? —Journal