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IN CHARGE OF THIS ISSUE

- L. B. Leighton G. F. Ashworth

Monday, March 13, 1922

THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

At last, after five weeks of the usual haggling, the Technique Electoral Committee has chosen an editor-in-chief for next year's volume. A good job has been done, but at what expense of time and energy. The time consumed is an indictment against democratic methods of choosing the man. This does not mean, however, that the alternative is the termination of the only prerogative of a class which gives it the right to take an active part in the conduct of an activity.

The present system is not scientifically devised. The only requisite that it meets is that it is democratic, at least in theory. Practically, it has proved to be very difficult to work, as many members of previous committees will testify. Further, the men who know most about the qualities and fitness of the candidates have no voice in their choice, and since the electors are not of necessity aware of the particular attributes of the aspirants to the editor's chair, it is not impossible that the whole affair will degenerate into a political squabble.

These objections can be easily overcome by a slightly different organization of the committee's functions. Instead of allowing it to select any man from the class at large, the names of only five or six men should be submitted to it for consideration, these to be selected by a board composed of men who are most likely to know the value of the material available among the candidates. Obviously, this board should include the editor-in-chief and business manager both of the current volume and of the preceding volume. The Sophomore class should have representation, perhaps in the person of its president, and THE TECH might well be represented by its General Manager or by its Editor-in-Chief. The inclusion of this last might be open to

question but for the fact that experience has shown that about one-third of every Technique staff has had, at one time or another, some connection with THE TECH.

Not only is such an arrangement the most logical from the fact that the Technique board would have a word in the choice of its successors, but it is also the fairest, inasmuch as politics could play no part in a group of such diversified interests. All the men suggested by the board would be of meritorious ability, and it would be difficult for any political bickering to take place over them. The adoption of the scheme will end the practice of certain factions delaying action for weeks on account of their insistence on a particular man, and the very undesirable makeshift of choosing a compromise candidate in order to break a deadlock will be altogether eliminated.

The present Electoral Committee should by no means be abolished, as it is very valuable as a nucleus for class activity, but it could do its work much more effectively by adopting a few suggestions such as the foregoing. The Institute Committee should take the matter under consideration as soon as possible, so the next year's Technique may benefit by any plan which may be worked out.

SHALL WE ABOLISH THE INEVITABLE

EVER since Gilbert K. Chesterton, in his inimitable way, propounded the above query, its repercussions have been discernible in many of the most widely divergent strata of society, until the latest thing to be included in the category of the inevitable whose abolition is contemplated, is that long standing bane and Nemesis of both student and teacher, the college examination.

But while the scholastic oracles are practically unanimous on the disadvantage and more obvious defects of the examination system as exemplified in the vast majority of modern collegiate institutions, the fact remains that examinations fulfill a very definite function in the complicated scheme of any educational institution, and before raising any questions as to the ultimate utility and final desirability of examinations, it would be neither wise nor desirable to forget just why we have such examinations, or why we must continue to have them both now and in the immediate future, unless human nature is to undergo a metamorphosis besides which the most utopian dreams of the millenists would be as the direct pessimism.

It is perfectly true that examinations have been abolished in many of our institutions of learning. It is also perfectly true that the benefits to an ever appreciative society might have been considerably augmented if the abolition had not stopped at the examinations but included many of the courses in which they were given, courses such as were undoubtedly the provocative influence causing an observant Frenchman to remark after completing a tour of some of the above-named institutions, "In America you have courses in everything except learning."

While a healthy curiosity about the novel and contemporaneous is anything but an undesirable asset, yet the spectacle of students flocking to the latest twists and twirls of psychoanalytical inhibitions and Freudian complexes, at the same time having no more knowledge of Dante than that the word somehow resembled the name of a steamship, or that a person endowed with some such patronymic wrote a book on a place which is seldom mentioned in the most select circle of the social elect.

As to scientific education in particular, the real need of the time is not for less, but for more, examinations. For while exams may be every bit as bothersome as they are depicted by those upon whom they have left their harrowing, if maturing imprint, they still remain about the only practicable method at the command of the conscientious teacher who wishes to insure that his pupils are doing something more than star-gazing or day-dreaming in his classes. And while examinations are undoubtedly unpleasant, the acquisition of knowledge has never been a field of endeavor in which the dilettante is particularly conspicuous.



The Lounger's life is inextricably tangled up with the principle of unfettered speech, but there are occasions when he feels that there should be some limit to what is said. That is to say, when one has nothing to say he should say nothing. He feels that one should not speak on subjects on which he is ignorant.

Several frosh have been guilty of this crime against society. All the way from the self-constituted authority on my lady nicotine down to the present the frosh have forgotten that children should be seen and not heard. This is the latest from a frosh who does not dare sign his name (probably due to the fact that the Charles is now open to receive guests).

I feel it my duty to call to your attention a very grave error which appeared in your article last Friday. You claimed to hold a piece of paper in your left hand while the cut showed it to be in your right. I know that this error was caused by your looking at the cut in which, of course, the relative positions are reversed. I hope that you will remember this in looking at future cuts.

FELIX FRESHMAN

The Lounger hates to smash dreams, for he sees how much more enjoyable they make life for the children, but the error was not caused by anybody. In fact the only error was that of the writer, as he wrote whereof he knew not. When this poor frosh gets older he may understand that there is a difference between holding and carrying. When one holds an object he holds it tight, just as one holds a football or a young lady. When one carries anything he does it in a more easy manner. Thus the Lounger carried a copy of the Crime but as he said he held a paper in his left hand. This paper was a check for ten cents, being the refund on a lab deposit.

Now, the Lounger does not object to the poor frosh writing him for sympathy, nor does he object to a frosh saying what he knows, be it ever so small. But when a boob who knows nothing about the trials and tribulations of a would be humorist and immediately proceeds to send in a half column diatribe against Phosphorous. It is too bad. The Lounger is frankly worried over the ultimate fate of the youthful scribbler to THE TECH.

In the young, arrogance and stupidity seem to go hand in hand. This is not a success producing combination for an ambitious child. Not very far in the dark and distant past, another kid wrote a similar toned letter attacking the No Smoking signs which the Institute Committee had placed around the buildings. The faculty started their wheels of justice rolling and about Christmas time he received a request to the number of nine.

That is why the Lounger fears for Mr. Daybert's boy, Georgie. The symptoms of the case are the same. George may have his arrogance removed by the mighty Charles but no one can correct his stupidity but himself. This does not look hopeful, for not the slightest bit can be held out for any youth who read "Culture in the Corridors," and believed that he was meant to laugh at the profanity in it. If the Lounger read the editor's intention correctly, tears, and vows to be a better man were meant to follow it. And surely, nothing but rigor mortis should follow a youth's declaration of belief that the Voo Doo editorial on "Kissing and Telling" was a series of "wise cracks about the up-to-date flapper." The Lounger did not like to see his sex maligned to the extent it was in that editorial, and he did not wholly agree with its conclusions, but he would never have thought of questioning its sincerity.

Altogether George W. did not add much to the lustre of the name of Daybert when he penned his little screed. There is always valid criticism to be made of Voo Doo, and the Lounger would never for a minute suggest that because a man is in his first year at Technology that he should not be allowed to make it. But he does think that some examination should be made on what food these, our freshmen feed, that they are grown so great. That a callow youth, still in his mental knee-briches, should believe it fitting to express himself in such a manner reflects seriously on the Technology Plan of treating freshmen.

While there are not as many restrictions put on the chaps who come here, the flower of the prep schools, bubbling with knowledge, as there are at other colleges, he cautions the members of the class of 1925 not to fool themselves.

Another indiscretion of similar magnitude, and serious things are liable to happen to the carefree liberty that frosh at Tech enjoy. The Lounger knows whereof he speaks. Personally the Lounger thinks restrictions would be a great pity, but he has no doubt of the outcome if future freshmen classes allow the Dayberts in their midst to run without a leash too much.

NOTICES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

UNDERGRADUATE All freshmen desiring to substitute track, fencing, boxing, crew, wrestling, and baseball must sign up with Coach Kanaly in his office, 335 Walker before noon Wednesday, March 15. This includes all men now out for these sports as well as any new candidates.

ALUMNI NOTES

Heads Construction Firm Dwight P. Robinson '92, a graduate of Course VI, is now associated as president, with the corporation of Dwight P. Robinson & Company, one of the largest engineering and construction firms in the country. On graduation he assisted in the mechanical engineering laboratory at the Institute. Later he joined the organization of Stone & Webster as head of the Chicago office. From 1895 until 1903 he travelled over the continent under the management of Stone & Webster taking charge of various light and power properties of that organization. He was made president of the engineering and construction activities of the Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation in 1903. From 1912 when he became a partner in that firm till 1918, he had charge of various hydro-electric projects, and the buildings of steam stations over the country.

In 1918 he organized the firm of which he is now president. Under his leadership the company has rapidly expanded, and now forms one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world.

Elected President of A. S. C. E. John R. Freeman '76, one of the ablest consulting engineers in this country, has been elected President of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has been connected with many engineering projects in Boston, Baltimore, and New York. After taking up residence in Providence, he became affiliated with many firms, most notably the Providence Gas Company. His achievement as president of this organization was the erection of a gas making plant, now in operation.

The scene of many of his engineering feats is in the Orient where he made surveys for the modernization of the Chinese Grand Canal. There he has also made plans for the reclamation of a vast amount of land, and the provision of irrigation facilities in many parts of the famine stricken country which deals with fire insurance. His many books on the discharge of fire nozzles and the hydraulics of fire streams are authoritative.

AT THE THEATRES

- ARLINGTON: "The Heart of Maryland." Arlington Stock Company.
COLONIAL: "Tip Top." Fred Stone's last week.
COPLEY: Three of Shaw's Plays.
HOLLIS: "The White Headed Boy." The Irish Players in Lenox Robinson's comedy.
KEITH'S: All star bill including Cran Wilbur and Martha Mansfield in "Right or Wrong."
MAJESTIC: Shubert vaudeville starring Alexander Carr.
PLYMOUTH: "The Green Goddess." George Arliss in refined melodrama.
SELWYN: "The Circle." John Drew and Mrs. Leslie Carter, old favorites.
SHUBERT: "Greenwich Village Follies." Ted Lewis in third annual production.
ST. JAMES: "Detour." Boston Stock Company.
SYMPHONY HALL: Mar. 13, at 8:15. Boston Symphony Orchestra with Jean Bedetti as soloist.
TREMONT: "The Grand Duke." Lionel Atwill in a Belasco production.
WILBUR: "Liliom." Here and hereafter. Last week.
MOVIES
CENTRAL SQUARE: "Forever." Wallace Reid and Elsie Ferguson.
FENWAY: "Peacock Alley." Mae Murray.
TREMONT TEMPLE: "Monte Cristo." William Fox production of play by Alexandre Dumas.

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