

EDITORIALS

Every year about this time the average American male begins to feel depressed and is overcome by the strange feeling that someone is watching him. At first he cannot place just what is wrong, but he is sure that something is in the air.

Along about Thanksgiving it begins to dawn on him. Tax paying time is just around the corner, and sure enough his intuition was right --- someone is watching him. It is about here that the depressed feeling is replaced by a high fever and an upset stomach. This hard-working, earnest, sincere, average American realizes that he soon must give up a large sum of his past year's earnings.

When viewed objectively the American tradition of paying taxes as a sort of rental fee for living in the country and using its facilities seems to be a very good thing. In fact, one must concede that without our form of taxation there is a very distinct possibility that the country could not have survived. But, like most things which operate on a large scale, the U.S. taxation method has its faults.

While it is true that the money we pay in taxes each year is dispersed in such a way that there is an ample supply for defense, about half enough for educational purposes, and a great deal too much for poverty and medicare, there are many areas in which our money is just plain being wasted.

Daily we read of elaborate parties thrown to honor visiting dignitaries from foreign countries, all the way from President DeGaulle (who doesn't like us anyway) to the Maharaja of Podunc. It seems that somewhere along the line politicians have gotten the idea that the only way to win friends and influence countries is to wine and dine them. Actually there is no record available which shows that we have won an ally just because he liked the year of our champagne.

These parties may range from \$1000 to \$20,000 or more in costs. This means that it is possible for from 10 to 15 taxpayers money to go towards an all-night blow-out!

Recently a group of sailors in Norfolk, Virginia decided to have a party in honor of their ship. For the party they ordered a cake weighing 2 tons and costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000. It seems such a pity that countless men sweated so long so that their money could be spend on a cake to honor a piece of metal.

Our President is currently on a tour which is costing us about three taxpayers money per day (plus an additional \$200 for a paint job for his limousine). One must rightly wonder if this money will ever pay any dividends.

In many instances the taxpayer-taxspender relationship resembles Halloween. It is indeed not absurd to say that countless taxpayers are being tricked, in that their tax money eventually treats a lot of politicians and governmental officials to a helluva good time.

BRUITING ABOUT

(THE DECREE wishes to thank Miss Kanarco for giving us permission to print this letter which was originally intended solely for the Bruits.)

Dear Bruits:

When I started typing the first draft of my comments on graduate school, I determined that I would try to avoid any rhetorical stance that would have everyone say: "Who is she trying to impress? One year at graduate school and every word is a citation." So, I'll just make my comments, proof this letter for any comma splices, and hope that my remarks sound sincere.

I like it here. Every day I quit at least ten times, but then

I remember that I have a paper on Emerson to finish and two classes to teach tomorrow. You see, after a few weeks the fear abates. The "Grim Reaper" does not stalk the halls of graduate school unchallenged. Yes, some don't make it. But most of the graduate students who didn't come back this year were tired. They didn't flunk out. They just gave up. Others of us may be mustered out, between here and the "degree." But in spite of it all, most of us enjoy graduate school. I am speaking as a graduate assistant now, but I think that those students who take a full load of work, and don't teach, have the same basic reactions.

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"YOU SENT FOR ME?"

POTPOURRI

BY : DOUG GROSECLOSE

As I sat and listened to the chapel speaker on October 20 I thought, "How can we possibly have had so many terrible speakers in chapel this early in the year?" It has been a real chore to stay awake during all the services so far this year (with the exception of Dr. James') because the speakers have been so poor. Does the Administration think we want to hear about the "year that King Heziah died" every week? Are you moved by stories from "Guldeposts" about preachers getting killed in rumbles? Who is stupid enough to stand in between two gangs on the verge of a rumble anyway?

It is apparent to me that something needs to be done to radically alter the type of chapel speakers we have. Who is on the committee that chooses these speakers? Are any students asked their opinions? Are the ones asked members of the MSM or BSU? These are a few questions I have about chapel speakers. I realize that students have not "been around" long enough to know many good speakers, but I certainly could find several who are much bet-

ter than the ones we have suffered through this year. One speaker made a remark about students reading books in chapel, what reaction would he expect from a group that MUST be there and MUST listen to his rendition of the ole' time religion?

If the Administration thinks we are children why don't they hire a few "Thursday School" teachers to come before chapel and tell us all the Bible stories we should know? We are not juveniles and do not deserve to be treated as such, we are at least worthy of an interesting chapel speaker once in a while.

I cannot help but wonder what the Administration thinks we get out of chapel services: when the speakers are talking on a fourth-grade level. Is this what college students want? I certainly hope not, or I have vastly underestimated my fellow students. The speaker on October 20th made a point that most intellectuals throw aside religion; I do not agree with him. It is true that the general population of American churches is not drawn from college graduates, but this is a rejection of formal-

Committee Discusses the Draft

St. Louis, Mo. - (I.P.) - A faculty-student committee on Selective Service at Washington University has been appointed and charged with examining the impact of Selective Service's action upon the University community, determining faculty and student opinion on relevant issues, and preparing recommendations for University action.

Fifteen members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences have approved the committee's recommendations that the University report class standings to the Selective Service System upon the request of the student.

Resolutions of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:

Clearly, in some ways, current Selective service policy interferes with the principal function of a university. We fear that continued dependence upon class-standing lists will forestall students from attempting difficult courses, intensify the race for grades, and thus frustrate the educational process. Although we regard grades as a rough measure of student performance, we question the efficiency of such use in determining a class-standing list, especially in the freshman year.

When we use grades to determine such matters as entrance into graduate school, we are chiefly interested in performance within a major field rather than the total performance in all subjects throughout a college career.

Used conservatively, there is little doubt about the value of grades.

But selective Service asks us to go beyond these careful procedures. It asks us to balance, for example, a poor showing in chemistry with a strong performance in English and then to place the student in a precisely ranked relationship with the rest of his class.

What class rankings mean, we do not know for sure. Consequently, this University and others are actively considering the adoption of other indices of student performance.

Such experimentation is essential to the continued improvement of the university, even though it conflicts with the procedures proposed by Selective Service. This conflict indicates to us the dangers of using grades, grade point averages, and class standings for purposes for which none of them were ever intended.

Of course we realize that this use of class standings must be considered in terms of its

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DECREE POLICY

In the last issue of the DECREE, dated October 14, a complete listing of SLA trials, including names, charges, and findings, was printed. At that time the policy of the DECREE concerning the publishing of this information was carried in an editorial.

Since that time a certain element of the Wesleyan student body has voiced disapproval of the practice for one reason or another. It seems that there now exists two opposing views relating to the practice.

Those who object to our printing these trial results do so on the grounds that they are bad publicity for the school. They contend that such information appearing in our school paper tends to make us show up unfavorably in the eyes of those who live outside our campus. Furthermore, they contend that it is no more than adding "salt to the wound" of a person convicted of an offense by the SLA and that it does a tremendous injustice to an individual found not guilty.

The other view is that SLA trials and their findings are of concern to the student body and the information pertaining to them should be made available to the students. Since the DECREE is the medium for student information, they feel that it is the best means available for making results of these proceedings public knowledge.

Of the two opposing views, the DECREE favors the latter. It shall be our policy to print the results of all SLA action.

It is not our intention to give the world outside our campus an unfavorable impression of us, nor do we wish to do any individual an injustice. We simply intend to compile and relay to the students that information which we feel is important for them to have.