

The Daily Tar Heel

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Saturday, April 29, 1933

You Can't Get Blood Out of a Turnip

The recent criticism which has been hurled against the University for what has been termed "useless extravagance" has been directed not only at the administration but at the campus at large. During the recent discussion in the state legislature of the educational appropriations bill, heavy condemnation was heaped upon the University for its inability to live within its means, and especially upon the students for their reckless expenditure on dances and other entertainments. The answer which the campus has made to these statements is that the money does not come from the state but from the pockets of the students giving the dances and that if they choose to spend their own money it does not behoove Representative Tam Bowie or Senator Larry Moore to say to them no. Such a reply is indeed a valid one; and in the cases of the May Frolics and the German club dances, where the dances are given by students who can afford them and desire them, no reasonable objection could be made.

The junior-senior set, however, present a different front. Here the dances are not given by an isolated group of wealthy students but by the entire classes, the wealthiest and the poorest. They want their dances, therefore they should have them; but there are many who cannot afford exorbitant fees and it is unfair to them that they should be excluded. The members of the classes have already paid \$8.50 for class dues out of which the money for the dances is supposed to come. Having made plans for a set costing around \$1600, the executive committees of the two classes, finding that they were short of funds and, without consulting the classes, attempted to levy an extra dollar, without the payment of which no member of either class would be admitted.

Such rank dictatorial powers was obviously outside the rights of the executive committees, and in addition the move was grossly unfair. Many students would have been unable to pay the additional fee and hence not only unable to attend the dances but would also have lost the benefit of the part of their \$8.50 which went to pay for the other students' pleasure.

Such a furor was raised by the members of the classes that the executive committees beat a hasty retreat and removed the levy subservient to future actions of the classes as units. Now the committees propose a fifty-cent levy. But the action came too late. In the audit of April 13 it was revealed that, while the junior class had a surplus of \$876, the senior class had a deficit of \$15.33. Yet in the face of this they planned to spend \$800 as their share of the dance expenses.

Just what attitude is shown by such a condition is doubtful, but at the least it displays poor judgment on the part of class leaders.—V.C.R.

The Gold From The Dross

After sitting through a tapping ceremony conducted by the Order of the Golden Fleece one can not fail to be impressed with the lofty ideals which dominate the purpose of that imminent fraternity, nor fail to recognize the high honor which inception into it bestows upon the initiate. Yet, to the student who is acquainted with the new members, there can be no conjecture as to the source from which membership in this order derives its honor. It is derived from the ultra-selective process by which new members are chosen, by the limited number who are selected for membership and by the qualifications which they must possess.

It is not enough that a student have an enviable record as a scholar, though that is one requisite; it is not all-important that he have a long list of campus positions to his credit, nor that one be a general favorite on the campus. All these things blended, together with "ideas, ideals, and the capacity for work," as Governor Ehringhaus put it, are necessary for membership in the Order of the Golden Fleece. The men who were inducted Thursday night do not fall short of any of these requirements; not one of them can be classed as ordinary men.

When the roll of this venerable society is called those who respond will be recognized as the ones who have labored to make the affairs of this campus, this state, and the nation run smoothly—and have succeeded; and the ones who will be at the helm of the civilization of tomorrow.—W.A.S.

Too Much Jetsam—

"You can't limit a man's participation in activities." That was the answer given to an editorial, appearing Wednesday, which advocated a point system for rating campus offices and limiting the number of points which an individual student might hold.

But the fact that a small group of students monopolize—and, incidentally, are themselves monopolized—by extra-curricular activities is not the only evil of the campus system. There are too many organizations. Too many useless organizations. Too many organizations that duplicate each other. The names of these organizations cannot be mentioned without making their members angry, but if some of the most avid joiners on the campus will take stock of their membership cards, they will see readily how little the whole batch of them is worth.

Let the student council, or some specially created body, be given the power to investigate existing organizations on the campus. To those which appear unnecessary or superfluous let an ultimatum to do or die be issued. And when any new organization is proposed let the governing body investigate its purpose and its proposals. Then, if it is thought to be a worthwhile venture, let a charter to be issued to it. No club or society—fraternities excepted—should, then, exist on the campus unless it is chartered by the organization-governing body and unless it fulfills the provisions of the charter under which it came into existence.—E.C.D.

Steady, Parents and Grandparents—

Several weeks ago a letter appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer from a woman in Rocky Mount. She mourned the return to the Old North State of that contaminating fire, that omnipotent, satanic fluid, that originator of all evil, beer. One part of her letter read as follows. "Instead of singing, 'Carolina, blessed by Heaven,' students of the future will be singing, 'Nobody knows how drunk I am.' We must do all that lies within our powers to quell this evil flood of spirituous beverage before it is too late. We must fight, fight, fight to save the lives and reputations of our brothers, our husbands, our sons."

She wrote on, much more, concerning the terrible consequences of beer not only upon the state and the world, but especially upon the students at Chapel Hill. This obviously sincere, but sadly deluded woman forgets in her fanaticism that before 1908, we not only had beer in North Carolina, but every other form of liquor as well, and yet Carolina continued to turn out some of the finest men and women that this country is capable of producing. Human nature has not changed to such a great degree as to make something that was allowed twenty-five years ago, a deadly sin today.

She forgets that for thousands of years the younger generation was bound for places inconducive to human happiness, and that for thousands of years, it had extricated itself from the mire to lead on to greater and nobler heights. She forgets that in nearly every University town in the country, beer is allowed the thirsty college student, and before prohibition, was quaffed in large quantities, but that that didn't prevent these universities from turning out men who rose above all others that had lived in many years.

This crusader forgets that not only beer, but corn, and applejack, and many other liquors are procurable in and about Chapel Hill in sufficient quantities to drink the whole state of North Carolina into a state of supreme intoxication. If then, with all this liquor readily to be had, since we are not on a continuous drunken spree, since one may walk the streets of Chapel Hill on almost any evening, and see hundreds of perfectly sane, sober students, is it likely that 3.2 beer will lead to a gradual but complete degeneration of the world in general? (I may be wrong, but my humble opinion is that such an idea is not only far-fetched, but to say the least, foolish and unworthy of a mind beyond the stage where it takes statements for granted without serious contemplation of the matter to be considered.)

By the time a man is old enough to go to college, he is ready to realize that the course to be pursued by him is not one of continuous revelry, but of sane and sober consideration of the paths that lie before him. So we say to those who worry over our fate: Have confidence in us as your fathers had confidence in you a generation past.—W.H.W.

Already a device has been patented by an Ohio State University professor, which automatically corrects certain types of examinations and calculates their scores. This is the last straw. If we're to be graded by a machine-monster, let's demand a mechanical instructor, too.—Oklahoma Daily (N.S.F.A.).

This year's annual at the University of Kentucky will contain pictures of the ten most popular professors instead of the ten most popular ladies, as has been the custom heretofore.—Ring-Tum Phi (N.S.F.A.).

Speaking The Campus Mind

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

Can't we hear the despairing voices of Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer as they listen to tales of how some merry band of revelers came to Chapel Hill, and, to the insipid tune of \$1600, danced us off our feet?

Possibly we may not have taken very kindly in the past toward letting forces outside of Chapel Hill govern our actions concerning money and play. Possibly not. But then, our professors' salaries had not become a mockery, our libraries had not become almost static, and our labs and research department had not landed on the rock of cold despair, owing to inadequate funds. Then, too, this state did not have thousands of people suffering from unemployment, frozen assets, depleted incomes, and increased taxes. No, people talked, they soon forgot as they opened their mail-order catalogues to search for something they too could buy and enjoy.

Conditions now, however, have reached a stage where even the slightest semblance of wealth is looked upon enviously and with mixed emotions. If these classes are so naive as to shower money upon sheer vanity, there must be truth to the stories that our institution has no sense of the value of things about us. Will a feeling arise that appropriations are still too high? Do we wish to be a target for further reductions? Our fellow citizens will see the obvious only. They will read about how we shall dance in ecstasy beneath soft lights, and in an atmosphere of incense and high priced decorations.

We've been the object of adverse criticism too long. It's time we united upon a fundamental understanding with our fellow citizens. Let's show Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer that we are conscious of his burdens, and that we wish to help him by means of the education and training we receive at Chapel Hill. Let's not flout such a childish display as a "toy" band worth \$1100 at him with the remark that "we'll do as we please." Let's keep together to fight this depression, and refrain from exciting the envy of the entire state.

F. G., Class of '34.

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

Much more valuable and appreciative material could be used in the TAR HEEL than the articles which have been appearing in regards to the junior-senior dances. However, the situation has been brought before the members of the junior and senior classes, and it is not only a situation that concerns the members of the two classes but deeply concerns the University. It was not long ago that the students aided the University, but now the executive committees of the two upper classes have waned and will injure the University in the eyes of the State Legislature by staging a series of junior-senior dances that are to cost \$1,600.

It has been asked of the committees to show cause why it is necessary to have the dances at such a cost, and from where did they get their power to make such arrangements and keep it concealed for so long a period—their plans accidentally "leaked out." They have not made public any statement in regards to the questions. However, one official of the junior class stated to a fellow-member this: "The junior and senior classes are the strongest organizations on this campus, and if they can't give a

dance that will surpass those which the fraternities give then we should bury our faces in the ground." Is such a just cause? This same official also stated: "If we do not carry out our plans you will lose the money anyway."

It seems to me that such reasons are not justifiable when the University is already being fed on its last straw and that it is not sure of getting all of the last straw.

As has been pointed out, the cost of the dances can easily be cut in half. If we have a surplus of money it is not necessary to give it to Mr. Lown who is several hundred miles from this campus—just look out of any window on the University campus and many things can be seen that the money could be used for and would be appreciated.

Will not the gentlemen yield and uphold the University and the morale of the student body?
J.P.T., '34.

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

From articles which have appeared in the later issues of the TAR HEEL and from talks of the members of the junior and senior classes it appears as an established fact that the junior-senior dances are to cost \$1,600.

We know that our parents are only too glad to do anything in their power to aid us in remaining in the University; we also know that they are depriving themselves of some necessities—not mentioning anything that one could call a luxury—in order that they may be able to send us funds to pay board and tuition with. A savings of one or two dollars would contribute much to their cause. We perhaps receive that one or two dollars to pay into class fees that are used for such gala occasions as the oncoming junior-senior dances. We have this amount to contribute because the executive committees say so. We must pay all class fees!

Where do the executive committees get the power to dictate to their fellow-members what they shall do? It comes from authoritative sources in the University that the executive committees have acquired these dictatorial powers by their own venturing and assumption and not by the vote of the members of the classes or from any other authority.

The board of trustees of the University would call down the President of the University if he went beyond the boundary of his authority. The executive committees of the two upper classes have now gone beyond their boundary; therefore, it is

now time for the members of the two classes to call trumps down.
T.H., '34.

To the Editor,
The DAILY TAR HEEL:

Why did the student body, including the members of the junior and senior classes, gather for a mass meeting in Memorial hall and listen favorably while their spring holidays were being postponed for an indefinite period? Why did the same group gather a few days later and agree to write home in appeal for the folks at home to make a plea to our legislators in Raleigh for the very existence of the University? Why are faculty members and other employees of the University having to take a twenty-five per cent cut in salaries this week? Why are we working for part of our expenses and borrowing from the student loan fund to pay the remainder? We are doing so because, throughout this state and nation the financial conditions are such that the people are having to fight for a bare existence, and we likewise are having to fight for the very existence of the University and for us to be able to remain here in school.

We have carried on and tried to make the best of a bad situation, but aren't we somewhat inconsistent if we allow a dance sponsored by the junior and senior classes of the University, to cost \$1,600 as a maximum figure? The orchestra alone is costing \$1,100. Is there any reason why it should cost so much, since things are as they are, when we could secure orchestra known both in the nation and state for \$500?

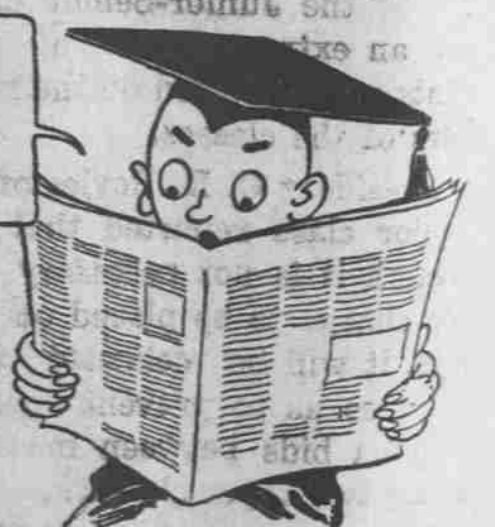
It might be breaking down a so-called Carolina tradition to get a cheaper orchestra, but other Carolina traditions may be broken down if the state legislature learns of what is about to take place here on the campus; therefore, in the face of the conditions at home and throughout the nation in general, it seems that it would be wise to seek less expensive dances, for this year at least, and the remaining money in the treasury of the two classes could be used as the members of the classes see fit. At least it is something worth thinking over and the classes as a whole should express their opinion, either through a petition or a mass meeting. Furthermore, SENIORS, according to the last meeting of the executive committee it is either do this or pay an additional dollar. Which shall it be? M.T.C., '33.

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