

Time Has Come To Defend Early Rushing Practices

Recent discussion about fraternity life has touched on virtually all areas of the Greek societies and, characteristically, most comment has centered around proposals to "improve" the organizations.

So long as rational thought is given to the so-called problems, and so long as circumstances do exist which need correcting, we count ourselves among the first to offer remedies. But there comes a time when certain fraternity practices merit defense.

Specifically, we refer to proposals in the wind now to delay rushing until the spring semester—that is, wait four and one-half months after the opening of school for fraternities to seek members for their organizations.

Elsewhere on today's editorial page appears comment from the Duke Chronicle discussing problems encountered there when sororities delayed rushing until the second semester. It should be read by those who advocate that practice.

However, defense for early rushing—beginning several weeks after school opens in the fall—is far more sweeping than only those factors which the Chronicle has pointed out. These factors should be enumerated to further defend the practice.

First, those who are quickest to criticize early rush generally number among those who are unfamiliar with it. There certainly is no sin adjoined to non-membership in a fraternity—but those who are Greek members are in a position to know a great deal more about rush than are the so-called dormitory men.

It seems peculiar to us that persons who never have sat in a chapter meeting—persons who have not experienced long hours of discussion, supporting and opposing a particular rushee—should know so much about the intricacies of this particular fraternity program.

Second, admitting that fraternity men are much closer to the problems of rush than are non-Greeks, it becomes ridiculous to revolutionize the rush program at the whims of politicians who for the most part are generally unfamiliar with the practice.

If, in fact, the legislature holds the power to determine when rush will be held, its members should be fully aware of all the economic and social problems attached thereto. Unfortunately, this understanding comes only with membership in a fraternity.

It is with these facts in mind that we say non-fraternity men should not dictate to the Greek societies how or when their rush practices should be conducted.

Third, it would be utterly folly to generalize in a statement that

fraternities frequently "miss" good rushes due to the earliness of the rush program—a key argument for critics of the practice. For this reason, some say, the rush program should be delayed.

The truth is that many letters and expensive long-distance telephone calls are consistently employed to investigate an unknown rushee who, on his first visits to a house during rush week, impresses the fraternity men who are his hosts. The rushee is given every chance—at the expense of the chapter.

Nor do many potential rushes come to the University totally unknown to fraternity men at UNC. So far-reaching are alumni and friends of the local chapters that annually countless numbers of letters of recommendation are received by the local chapters. Because of this practice it is doubtful that many candidates pass unnoticed from one house to another.

Fourth, it is unfair for high school and prep school graduates who have the means and desire to join a fraternity to prohibit them from membership during a period which is the most formative of their college career. Too, the time from early September to mid-January is a period when fraternities provide a world of social activities for those counted among their numbers.

To eliminate persons from that membership for a period of four and one-half months, to deny a desired social outlet for those with means to afford it, to bypass close relations with younger men during a most important period of their college life—these are totally unfair and a detriment to the fraternity system.

The economic aspect of early rush already has been discussed on this page. Suffice it to say that a fraternity is a business—and to operate with efficiency it must have sufficient resources to cover its expenses. This problem becomes acute when dinner places are vacant and beds remain idle at a fraternity house.

So important to the fraternity system is early rush that one column could scarcely but touch on the various factors upholding the practice. And it is a practice which should be viewed in all its aspects before the axe is dropped by the student legislature.

Before that axe is dropped, it behoves our legislators to re-educate in the matter of fraternity rush practices the hands which will guide its direction.

The Right To Own, Despite The UAW

Apparently the United Auto Workers Union isn't quite so clean as br'er Reuther would hope for the layman to believe.

Now that the extended strike at the Kohler Co. is being aired by the Senate Rackets Committee, at least two have testified they experienced violence and intimidation at the hands of union members.

One of the men against whom the allegation was made was none other than Jess Ferrazza, UAW international officer.

It acts like these which bring out our sympathy for the non-striking workers, and demand respect for the man who has kept his plant running despite great effort and expense of the UAW.

It would be well in all areas of American business if the owner could retain at least a little say-so in the operation of his enterprise—often developed after personal sacrifice and diligent work.

Fore

President Eisenhower disclosed Wednesday that he and vice president Nixon have a definite understanding of what Nixon will do in an emergency if the chief executive becomes unable to carry on his duties.

That's a surprise. We were unaware that Nixon, despite his many talents, even knew how to play golf.

WISE & OTHERWISE Thoughts Turn To Politics, Ike & Harry

By WHIT WHITFIELD

Anyone who has opened the Daily Tar Heel in class to find that the crossword puzzle has been omitted, and has been forced to READ the drivel in this column rather than take notes, will know that we never make political comments except in the most non-partisan manner. We have no affinity for politics in any fashion. Therefore we leave that choice subject for the more intelligent columnists.

However, we do make mental notes of current events as our political colleagues read and interpret the news pages for us.

For instance, just last week former President Harry S. made another one of his "Give 'em hell" speeches in which he soundly thrashed the GOP and its standard bearer, Dwight D.

Eisenhower, upon his arrival in Washington, after a ten day vacation in Georgia and a trip to Phoenix, Arizona (to escort Mamie to a "Plush beauty-health resort" as the U.P. termed it) urged Americans to use "courage and common sense" in fighting the current business slump, and not to listen to "men of little faith and of little spirit."

Harry S. was not caught napping, however. In typical Truman fashion, he replied that "There are men of little faith and little spirit and all of them are in the Republican Party." Talk about touches, Truman must be the "Fastest Blade Alive." Hagerty and Eisenhower had so much trouble getting the blade out that they didn't have time to reply. It was not known at press time whether the blade were removed without surgery, or how soundly the President slept.

This whole affair reminded us of a recent network news cast in which a despondent father, out of work for some time, and at his wits end, had this to say about Ike's soothing words on the "slump":

"I hope President Eisenhower is right about this slump being temporary. I've borrowed all the money I can from my friends to feed my kids, but they're still hungry. I don't know what to do now."

MERCURY GOES DOWN!

No matter how changeable your climate may be, chances are you never saw the mercury go down as fast as it did when Robert Sherfield swallowed a clinical thermometer in a hospital at Bourne mouth, England.

KEEP ACCIDENT 'IN FAMILY'

Even in a city as big as Chicago, a man and his wife will occasionally run into each other on the street. But Dr. and Mrs. Alex Buchholz did it the hard way—each driving a car. Dr. Buchholz, uninjured, insisted on taking the other driver to a hospital for personalized treatment.

"By The Way, Who Appoints Those Fellows?"



EDITORIAL COMMENT

U.S. Has Confidence In What?

Stripped of non-essentials, the Administration's program for coping with the recession consists of three tactical maneuvers: "to build up confidence" by brisk, frequent, optimistic statements carefully orchestrated for effect; to make additional money—an estimated \$500,000,000—available for commercial and industrial loans by reducing the reserves required to be held against demand deposits; and in the meantime, to maintain a "wait and see" attitude until mid-April, at least, in the hope that "the crisis of confidence" will dissipate. But the only confidence that the program has aroused is a general confidence that it will not be enough. The day after the President predicted an upturn by March, the stock market took a dip. No lines have formed to apply for commercial and industrial loans; on the contrary, time deposits are up and industrial loans are down—by \$100,000,000 since the first of the year, nearly twice the decline in the compara-

ble period for last year. Nor have such vaguely-voiced expedients as new postoffice construction or increased highway and defense spending reversed the current state of mind.

But this is not to imply that the public is wholly lacking in confidence. Editorial surveys would indicate that the public is confident that the Administration has not done enough, but that it would never "allow" so much as a significant pause in the boom. In a word, the public has confidence that the current recession need not, and should not, be permitted to turn into a major depression. This confidence is a favorable factor in itself; it did not exist in 1929, much less in 1932. But it will only be justified if the politicians, recognizing what the public expects of them, present programs based on today's economic realities. If the Administration fails to sustain this confidence, the public mood in the distressed areas could turn

ugly and desperate quicker than you can say Herbert Hoover.—The Nation.

WOLFF PRACTICING

To The Editor:

Mr. Wolff is doing very well in trying to sound like George Jean Nathan and I think it is so fortunate he has a column to practice in. Do I understand that he is so churlish as to demand that the Petites Dramatiques be scuttled just because they don't sound exactly like the Theatre Guild?

I am sure many people greatly appreciated the opportunity of being able to see "The Cocktail Party." I thought they did an excellent job and I hope they continue to bring us all the most difficult plays which professionals, forced to consider that unpleasant subject, money, would never dare.

E. T. Fitzpatrick

THE RALEIGH TIMES

Time Is Ripe To Work Together On Problems

Raleigh has more than an ordinary interest in the conflict that has developed between the State Board of Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of the Greater University.

Deeply involved is the question of which group is to be the big shot, which group will have the authority of lord and master in the problem of housing for married students at State College. There has been a heavy increase of married students in the colleges as compared with past years. These people are out to get an education and they are going to attain their goal, board or no board.

Institutions which are operated by the State should accept the responsibility of housing for these young people who come to the colleges. No longer can the issue be dodged. The time has come when the old clique of "Leave the wives at home" will answer no questions and bring no solutions. The young men are coming to college, and anybody who has had the slightest exposure to the youth of today knows that they are going to bring their wives with them.

At one time trailer camps apparently took care of an emergency problem. This type of living is now completely outmoded and beyond recall. Nobody in their right mind is going to ask even a student to live, study and in most cases do outside work as a helping hand, under such crowded and cramped conditions.

Speaking at Greensboro at a meeting of the University's Board of Trustees, Representative W. C. Harris, member of the Legislature from Wake County, and a trustee, put his finger squarely on the issue when he declared: "We may have reached the point where either we do not need this board of trustees or we do not need the board of higher education. I am afraid we are getting too much bureaucracy."

The Raleigh lawmaker continued that only a few relatively unimportant conflicts have appeared involving Woman's College and Chapel Hill, but he stressed that the matter of State College dormitories is "very important."

Harris is dead right. The question of dormitories at State College is vital, especially to the City of Raleigh. Students who attend State College and bring their families along have not only become a part of the life of the community, but they also contribute heavily to its economy. They take part in the city's cultural life, live and buy things of all kinds from local merchants most of the year, thus giving the cash register a merrier ring.

The highly important question, however, is that of who is to run what. If the Board of Higher Education is to exist then there should be no conflict, no brawling with the institutions which it has been created to succor.

At a time when there is a crying need for educated people, scientists, teachers and a dozen other categories where book learning creates the foundation, it is most silly for the people in high places to be in disagreement as to the operational functions of the colleges and schools.

With about one in four of every student on the State College campus enjoying marital bliss the responsibility for giving them decent housing rests with the state. The hour is here for the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education to get together and settle this problem, as well as any other that may develop, in peace and harmony. And in doing this the welfare of the students should have A-1 preference.

WHICH SEMESTER RUSH

First Or Second?

(Following is an editorial from the Duke Chronicle, arguing in favor of early rush for sororities. It is of interest here in view of recent sentiments for late fraternity rushing at the University.)

It didn't live up to expectations. Second semester rushing was hailed by some as a means of putting sororities in their proper place. It was to allow freshmen time to make their adjustment to campus life while taking an objective look at sororities.

However, this year's rush accomplished none of these aims and brought forth many unexpected complications. Dirty rushing, which could not be called dirty officially because only the spirit of the rules was broken, became a common first semester practice. As several sorority women commented: "It's bad enough having to rush for three weeks, but when you have to rush five months extra, it's really awful." Such an attitude on the part of sorority members completely defeated any attempt at normal relations.

Objectivity among freshmen was another failure of the new system. Instead of entering rush with an open and informed mind, freshmen had, in many cases, narrowed their choices to a few "top" sororities; the other went unconsidered. Other rushes had formed such close friendships within their dormitories that their choices were limited to those of their friends. Meanwhile, many of the sororities were concentrating on the same relatively small portion of the freshman class. Because of these problems and the fact that second semester rush did not decrease the excess importance attached to sorority membership by freshmen, tension and hurt feelings were more abundant than before.

It will be up to the Administration to decide when next year's rushing will take place. If it takes into careful consideration the whole situation, it can only decide on the return to first semester.

by Charles Schulz

by Al Capp

by Walt Kelly



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