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Shaw Situation

schools where such a policy had been adopted.

According to alumni spokesmen the subsidization of football players has not necessarily brought about the impasse now existing. They claim the situation has developed because of the mishandling and diverting of athletic funds. This statement is made, despite the statement of the president that the ever increasing deficit at the University has been caused, in the main, by the financial assistance the University has been giving its athletes, for the most part football players.

The expansion of the physical facilities at Shaw particularly, the purchase of the old Rex Hospital properties, has resulted in quite a sizeable debt being incurred by the school.

When the trustees of Shaw University held their annual meeting in April of this year, much unfavorable criticism was directed toward the administration because of the growing yearly deficit and the increasing indebtedness. Because of administration claims that the deficit was the result of giving purely athletic scholarships, the trustees recommended the abolishment of these special scholarships, expressing the opinion that the alumni could and possibly would provide the funds necessary for the continuance of the athletic program.

It had not been learned as yet whether the trustees were speculating on that possibility or whether they had assurance that such would be the case by having had a previous commitment from the alumni.

In the meanwhile, there seemed to have been developing a feud

between the business office at the University and alumni office.

The business office reported that the office of public relations and alumni secretary was not paying its way and asked for its discontinuance.

Here again is conflicting evidence. The business office computed an amount in excess of \$3000 as travel and expense, chargeable to the public relations and alumni office, the alumni say that an independent audit revealed that only \$400 was spent.

At any rate, the office was abolished and the amount of expense claimed by the business office was allowed to stand leaving no official link between the administration and the alumni. This step was taken despite the claim of the alumni that over \$10,000 was collected and turned over to the administration that very year. Part of the amount, the alumni say, was earmarked for athletic scholarships. The alumni further claim that if the athletic fees and gate receipts, amounting to several thousands dollars, were not diverted by the business office to the general fund of the University, there would not be an athletic deficit.

As everyone who is at all conversant with the affairs of Shaw University known, the present administration is a new one. Consequently, it must be apparent that the situation now existing must have had its beginning before this present administration came into office.

How far the matter had been allowed to deteriorate is not known, neither is it known what steps if any have been made by the present administration to resolve the difference. But it does not require a Solomon to state that until all groups, interested in the welfare and preservation of Shaw University decide to it common sense and unselfishness be their motivation, the situation will ultimately result into a state beyond recovery and Shaw University will close its doors forever.

On May 26 of this year, the alumni adopted a list of recommendations to be submitted to the board of trustees for its approval. Preceding these recommendations is a list of developments which the alumni say is the basic cause for the present state of affairs.

According to the alumni, the coaching staff was given blanket authority to run the athletic department as it saw fit. As a consequence, it is claimed, it recruited a football team of paid players from New York and New Jersey and would hardly permit students from the student body at large or any boy from North Carolina to participate as a football player.

As a result of this administration sanctioned unsound policy, the alumni say, boys of football caliber in North Carolina saw no reason why they should attend Shaw and enrolled elsewhere, thereby cutting down the manpower as well as the enrollment of the school.

The alumni also blame the administration, past and present, for "unnecessary and harmful conflicts in public relations as they have affected the alumni and alumni organizations," claiming that the insistence of the administration on having control of alumni affairs is "part of an era that is fast and impossible of future acceptability."

The alumni say the whole alumni organization is ready to actively support not only the athletic program at Shaw but also give its aid to other phases of the development program, but it insists it must be allowed to function as one would normally act within his own home and not be relegated to the backseat as if it were not a part of the whole.

President Strasser told us that he has made repeated offers to meet with the executive committee representing the alumni but that committee has refused to meet with him.

He expressed grave concern over the present state of affairs and said he has been willing, and is now willing and will hold himself in readiness to sit down with this committee in an effort to settle the misunderstanding now existing and do everything within his power to affect an equitable solution.

It is the alumni contention that the trustees, or at least the executive committee of the board of trustees can give the assurance necessary for an amicable settlement and they insist upon a settlement of the controversy on that basis only.

They say they are not trying to hamstring the University or the athletic program but that unless certain dominant factors are taken into consideration and acted upon, there can never be a permanent basis for understanding and harmonious relations.

Why, they ask, should they meet the president and rehash the grievances, when, they claim, the past president and the present one, are responsible for the present state of affairs and have been told many times about the evils existing and neither President Daniels or his successor, Dr. Strasser has seen fit to take any steps to remedy the situation.

A roll has been taken of all the available members of the board of trustees. One expressed himself as being surprised that football had been dropped this year.

It is hardly conceivable that a trustee of a University living in this city where that University is located, would not know, until apprised by a newspaper reporter, that football had been discontinued at that school, but strange as it may sound, such was the case.

The consensus of their opinion seems to be that football has been costing the school too much money, the mortgage and bond holders of the University would not countenance the continuance of the growing deficit; that other schools depended upon their alumni and other interested friends for the support of their athletic programs and although they deplored the necessity for the action taken, it was their opinion that the president was acting within the authority granted him by them, if he felt that such actions were necessary for the good of the school.

In all of this, there appears to be a loose screw because it is evident that there was no preconceived idea to abandon football this year by the trustees by the administration, by the alumni or the coaching staff.

There is ample evidence that a football team was on the program for Shaw this year or there most certainly would not have been football practice sessions.

It is reported that 19 men did report for football, daily uniformed practices were held and that had not several of the group sustained injuries, the football program would have been carried on. What type of financial arrangements, if any, had been made with that group of 19, has not been learned, but the fact remains there was an attempt made to field a team.

However, in all probability the present upheaval will result in a good for all concerned. At the end of this year if the deficit has increased, it can not be charged to football, and we all well know for a certainly who is right, the administration or the alumni in that respect.

Then too, as has always been the case, wisdom and justice will arise and petty selfishness, egoisms and petty selfishness, now being manifested on one side or the other will be dissipated, because as one trustee stated, "The voice of Eternal Truth will sooner or later assert itself, meanwhile

let us continue in prayer."

Shaw University, trying to carry on at a time when so much emphasis is being placed on the mistaken idea that it is the duty of the state to furnish education for everyone, needs football and every other extra-curricular activity that will enable it to attract and hold good students.

It is not thinkable that anyone having any type of goodwill does not deplore the confusion and misunderstanding now existing between the administration and the alumni of Shaw University.

It is not conceivable to suppose that either group would willingly do anything to hinder the institution in any way if they know that such was the case however, it has been said that, "the road to hell is full of good intentions."

People every day do evil, intending to do good because their vision has been distorted by petty prejudices and their judgments have been warped by cheap jealousy and private selfishness. What every one connected with this unfortunate situation at Shaw should do is get down on his knees and ask God to rid him or every village of evil, to clear his vision and give him an insight into His Kingdom as He would have it come to earth and thus equipped with a spiritual rebirth, each would be in a condition to sit down and see the other fellow's side because he could see God's side. It is fervently hoped this procedure will be followed.

Shaw University does not belong to any one group. It is the task of the trustees to chart the course for the school and the administration is given the responsibility to follow the outline given it by the trustees. No school can exist without alumni because, in the final analysis, producing alumni is the sole purpose of a school. Because of these pertinent facts, there is every need for perfect understanding, harmonious relationship and mutual respect by all and for all the groups at work for the maintenance and the preservation of Shaw University.

—BFC—

after it had made considerable headway. Local firemen concentrated on saving adjoining residences.

The rescue squad of the fire department used a resuscitator to keep the woman breathing until an ambulance could get her to the hospital.

Name Protested

were voiced by members of the family of the late Weeks Armstrong. The forum, however, voted to go through with its intention of seeking reconsideration of its action.

Local sentiment in opposition to the naming of the project in favor of the late Mr. Armstrong was first aroused when the local daily newspaper referred to the honor in a manner which would indicate that Mr. Armstrong was the submissive type of Negro usually considered "Uncle Tomish" by the more resolute members of the race.

The late Mr. Armstrong, in addition to being a school janitor, was one of the organizers of the Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church here.

is the father of Dr. L. P. Armstrong, Dr. W. T. Armstrong, Dr. W. E. Armstrong, a pharmacist, Mrs. Lucy Armstrong Lawrence, and R. D. Armstrong, local high school principal.

Whether the Civic Forum planned to submit another name for consideration to the

housing authority could not be learned. Neither could it be learned whether the forum was opposed to the naming of the project for Mr. Armstrong or whether the basis of its complaint lay in the arbitrary manner in which the housing authority acted in reaching its conclusion on the name.

Lawyer Honored

Some of the other participants slated to participate in the conference along with Attorney Taylor are: Hon. Hubert T. Delany, Justice Domestic Relations Court, New York City; Professor Thomas I. Emerson, of Yale University Law School; Attorney Earl B. Dickerson, of Chicago, Illinois, President of the National Lawyers Guild; Attorney Osmond K. Knebel, of New York City, Executive Vice-President of the National Lawyers Guild; Attorney Leon A. Ransom, of Washington, D. C.; Attorney A. T. Walden, of Atlanta, Georgia; Professor John Frank, of the Yale University Law School; and Attorney Beiford V. Lawson, of Washington, D. C.

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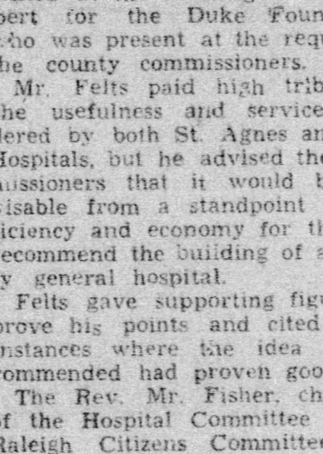
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