

OPEN FORUM

Editor of TAR HEEL:

It has been our serious duty as the representatives of the Student Body to investigate the case of gambling reported by other members of the Student Body, and to impose such penalties as we understood the facts to demand.

During the investigation certain of the men committed an act which is universally condemned and which is the very opposite of honor; they attempted to escape punishment by lying. The first principle of a gentleman is that he be honorable, and though he make a mistake, be willing to admit it and tell the truth whatever the cost.

The very heart of the Honor System is the presence in our Carolina men of that quality of manhood which makes them trustworthy. For one to prove himself unworthy of this trust by lying is to demand his removal as having betrayed the confidence placed in him, or else to destroy confidence in those who do merit it and wish to be treated as honorable men.

Such a man is not wanted at Carolina, and the sentences imposed practically amount to permanent expulsion. Our sentence was to prevent so far as possible their return to this campus.

As to the other men who were guilty of gambling and admitted their guilt, we felt that nothing less than suspension for a short time would be just.

The disputed question as to whether or not gambling is a breach of the Honor System or a breach of Student Body regulations it is not, and should not be sanctioned by the members of our Student Body. Most people agree that theoretically one should not gamble. Some require that practice be identical with that theory, while others do not follow so strictly and say that it is a question of degree.

However one may personally tell about this point, we ought all, it seems, agree that it can be carried too far. To play for large stakes, risking money sent by parents to pay for an education, often necessitates unpaid bills, lies to those sending the money and frequent withdrawals from school.

To play habitually literally saps the vitality and wastes the time which should be spent in study. One who plays into the late hours can hardly be expected to be alert and prepared on classes the following day.

To develop the gambling spirit is to make impossible the normal development of character. One who is a hardened gambler is inevitably found to be so constituted that in a difficult position he will resort to lying, or even stealing.

Recognizing this situation the Board of Trustees and Faculty have consistently adhered to the policy of demanding that such a person leave the University. Student Government has always followed the same practice. Every catalogue, every handbook, every pamphlet on Student Government states that gambling demands withdrawal. The men under sentence testified before the Committee that they understood that they would be suspended if the truth were known. Surely this is a well recognized principle of government.

In the case before us the men had played habitually over a long period of time; the stakes were large, one man having lost more than \$250.00; and the group as a whole had been generally disturbing those in the dormitory about them.

The men are not new at the game. They have not been suddenly caught. They have been given every consideration by the Council, and most of them have at one time or another said they felt that their individual sentence was just.

The sentences imposed by the Council have been reviewed by a Committee appointed by you for that purpose, and have been UNANIMOUSLY affirmed by the members of that Committee with a recommendation that the sentence of "B" be increased.

The Student Body is called upon to express at the ballot box on Friday. It is said that the men under sentence and others, who for one reason or another are interested in reversing the judgments of two groups that have carefully investigated the whole situation for the benefit of the Student Body, are actively soliciting votes for the ballot on that day.

The Student Council is expecting every man registered in the University to consider the facts carefully and to cast his vote according to the dictates of his best judgment.

THE COUNCIL.

The following is the form of the referendum:

I Sustain the sentences imposed by

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the Council and endorsed and recommended by the Committee with the suggested change in the sentence in the case of "B."

II

Decision of the Council be disregarded and that all men under sentence be put on strict probation.

III

As to those four men guilty of lying, sustain the sentences imposed by the Council and recommended by the Committee, with the suggested change in the case of "B"; but that the other ten men guilty of gambling be placed on probation for the spring quarter.

Editor of TAR HEEL:

When I was appointed a member of the Committee to investigate the recent action of the Student Council in the case of fourteen men charged with gambling, I had the preformed opinion that the Council's sentences had been too severe and that probation for the first offense would have been reasonable. It became apparent at the first meeting that other members of the group labored under a like illusion. The Committee thoroughly examined each man under sentence. The testimony of these men alone was sufficient to convince me that they had persisted in a flagrant violation of student government regulations deserving of no less a sentence than that imposed by the Council.

My impression that it was a first offense was soon changed by the admissions of the men themselves. It was rather a matter of first apprehension; and therefore, should not have been punished as a first offense. The room had become the scene of frequent poker games, many of which lasted all night and all day and on several occasions had continued through the entire week-end. The "limits" were not those used by innocent fun-lovers but those used by men who played for the sake of gain. It was evident that the Council had succeeded in uncovering an extremely undesirable situation, and from the evidence at hand, all the men who had participated at poker in this room were apprehended. The Council was surprisingly efficient in its investigation and meting sentences according to guilt.

Not only was I disillusioned as to the justice of the sentences imposed by the Council, but other members of

the Committee were similarly convinced as evidenced by the unanimous vote of the Committee to sustain the action of the Council.

Let's face the situation squarely. If we approve of gambling and like demoralizing agencies, against which the Council has taken action, let's say so. We must not only be frank to justify ourselves on the campus, but we need to justify ourselves to the state. The council worked with this case from its embryonic stage to its point of final development supplemented by a thorough investigation of the Committee appointed by the Student Body for that purpose. The Council and the Committee have seen developments and sidelights that the campus can never see in this case. I think it would be a tragedy in the history of Student Government at Carolina to make a single change in the decision of the Council and recommendations of the Committee. Do any one of you doubt the sincerity of a single member of the Council? Do you believe that a single member had any personal motives in his actions in the case? If you can answer these questions affirmatively you have some information that the Committee was unable to get. What is the right thing to do? Is the group not bigger than the individual? Is it to the interest of the group that this kind of a thing be tolerated? Personally I think the least we can do is to support the action taken.

J. O. DUNLAP.

Editor of TAR HEEL:

I have just read in your open forum column the letter entitled "Must They Be Athletes?" Doubtless there is some merit to this article, but there is one part that strikes me as entirely unwarranted: namely, the attempt to belittle the accomplishments of the president of the present sophomore class.

It happens that I am "on the inside" in regard to the affairs of the sophomore class, and I know for a fact that the presi-

dent has discharged his duties in a most capable and satisfactory manner. As for the fact that the sophomore class has not done anything astonishing, this is not in the least surprising. When has any sophomore class done anything of any great significance, or when has it ever been a leader in class activities? All outstanding achievements are left to the two upper classes. However, I am sure that if the intelligent writer of the aforementioned open forum letter had been president of the present class of '29, it would have revolutionized class activity at Carolina, and the class of '29 would have gone down in the annals of the University as the greatest in history.

As for the rather crude analogy of athletes to men of brawn and not men of brains, I should like to make just a remark or so. The present president of the sophomore class is an excellent student. He has passed every course that he has taken since he has been registered in the Uni-

versity. The "little freshman who writes so well in the TAR HEEL" should be just a bit more careful in his remarks in regard to "brains and brawn." As for brawn, the president of the class of '29 weighs just 121 pounds. Not such a "brawny athlete," eh?

In conclusion, let me say that I think an apology is due Mr. Sophomore Class President.

HARRY WEATHERLY.

The safest thing to ride in is a truck; the most dangerous thing to ride in is a reverie.—Publishers Syndicate.

The gold that other nations have invested in China is the real yellow peril.—El Paso paper

Hampton Quartet Sings Way Into Hearts of Audience

(Continued from page one)

visions of church meetings in lower South Carolina; the slow, full rhythm lingered after the concert was over. The quartet's enunciation was perfect and every word could be understood in all parts of the hall.

Patronizing Air!

The audience took a patronizing attitude toward the 'performance,' appreciating the spirituals to the extent of stamping the feet and laughing at some of the songs. The Hampton singers are to be complimented as excellent singers of negro spirituals and entertainers.

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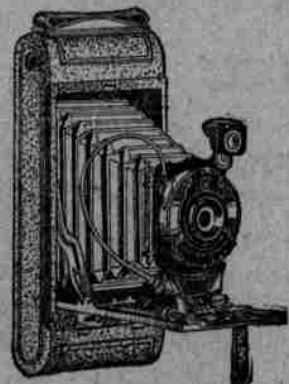
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