

The Daily Tar Heel



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Sunday, December 15, 1929

Big Business Turns Covetous Eyes Upon The University

By insidious, almost imperceptible influence big business, which has come to dominate practically every phase of American life, has extended its tenacles to many of the country's institutions of higher learning. Censorship of student publications, suppression of organizations encouraging liberal thought, rigorous limitation of research which might prove detrimental to industrial interests, removal of faculty members who exhibit an active interest in the economic, social and political welfare of the nation—these have become common occurrences since the disciples of Mammon initiated their efforts to bring the college campus under the sway of their oligarchal despotism.

Fortunately the University administration has been able to preserve a comparative freedom from the sinister and stifling influence of the monied interests. But ominous portents have appeared of late. Efforts have been made by powerful outside interests to compel the resignations of at least two of the University's most prominent faculty men. Certain research projects which might conceivably produce results not exactly to the liking of captains of industry have been summarily—and suspiciously—terminated. An important conference concerned with attempts to improve conditions among the working classes in this state was tentatively scheduled to be held at the University and abruptly transferred to a neighboring institution. Indications are that the administration is attempting to preserve a neutral attitude among the faculty concerning the industrial crisis through which the state is passing; this course is manifestly impossible to maintain for any length of time. The professors here are thinking individuals, serious minded-men for the most part. They cannot fail to have decided opinions upon the capital-labor struggle, and they cannot be restrained from expressing them.

According to an article in the December 4 issue of The Outlook by Raymond F. Howe, a former member of the University of Pittsburgh faculty, that institution offers a classic example of the extent to which "big business" domination of college and universities may be carried. In 1924 Chancellor John Gabbert Bowman conceived the idealistic plan of erecting a gigantic "Cathedral of Learning" to epitomize the spirit of the city as well as to provide classrooms for the University. Andrew W. Mellon, Senator David A. Reed, the secretary of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., and the presidents of the Carnegie Steel Co., the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. were among those appointed directors of the campaign for the huge structure. Most of these men were already on the Board of Trustees. The campaign was successful; most of the contributions were large sums donated by the corporations represented upon the campaign committee and the Board of Trustees. As a result the business interests practically gained control of the University.

The editor of the Pitt Weekly was told by his Dean that he would have to do one of three things: go along with the administration 100 per cent, submit to a strict censorship, or resign. The Pitt Panther was suspended by faculty order. Socialism was barred as a subject for an intercollegiate debate, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes was chased off the campus by hirelings of the administration when he attempted to speak under the auspices of the Liberal Club, the Club was denied the right to hear such men as Louis Untermeyer and Arthur Garfield Hayes at their meetings. Two student leaders of the Liberal Club and one member of the faculty were suspended from the University. Another faculty man of liberal tendencies was offered \$500 not to return the next fall. In answering a civil action brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the expelled students, Chancellor Bowman made the significant statement through his attorneys that the power of expulsion rests not with him but with the Board of Trustees.

It is to be hoped that the administration here can prevent the University of North Carolina from becoming the "Pitt of the South." Huge contributions from powerful corporations and industrial families should not be encouraged by the new Alumni Loyalty Fund or other agencies or individuals, for dangers of domination in such cases are great. Even a man of such strong character as President Chase might be powerless to avert the passing of control of the University to a clique of wealthy individuals, the mouth-piece of big business interests, if a few large contributors are allowed to finance the expansion of the institution. Small contributions from the entire body of alumni and friends of the University, rather than immense sums from a few, should be encouraged to provide the funds necessary to supplement state appropriations. And may the administration be successful in its efforts to keep the University out of the clutches of big business.

Witch Burners Busy Again Much evil has been cloaked in the garb of liberality. It is also true that license for the mere sake of "freedom" often degenerates into licentiousness. We hold no brief, either, for those who would discard all that which is old on that ground alone, for such a practice is vicious, in addition to being naive. But when centers of higher education, and one in particular which is enjoying considerable respect in the

South, takes up a witch hunt, with an alacrity and vengeance which are astounding, where the grand old states of Tennessee and Arkansas have left off then it is time for those left in possession of their sanity and equilibrium to strike out with all the power and intensity they can command at that hydra-headed creature—Intolerance.

Dr. John C. Dawson, president of Howard College, a Baptist institution, demanded and received the resignation of Dr. Horace Calvin Day, young professor of biology, who in addressing a chapel group at the college had the courage to say—"We should not give too literal interpretation to the Bible. There are some people so ignorant that they still believe that Noah crowded two of each species of animals into the ark during the flood. How could he have gotten all those animals into the ark? During my years of biological experience I have studied two kinds of whale and found it impossible for either of them to have swallowed a man whole and anyway no man could live inside a whale. These references seem illogical, but God is logical."

The news story is its own most powerful editorial. The modern and logical view of the Christian religion and the Bible is that they are a religion and book of great humanitarian ideas and not controversial words. The ecclesiastics who spend their life times in argumentation over the number of angels who can stand on a needle point, and more specifically justifying and proving the fact that Jonah could have existed within a whale, or that the ark could have possibly held two of each species of animals, in their narrow, petty inefficiency shut themselves away from the views of the founder of their religion (with which they are so much concerned) with dogmas and creeds; they enervate whatever energy they have for good by a practice of preaching and not living. Emerson once said "I can't hear what you say, because of what you are and do."

No Christian need concern himself with dogma and interpretations, but whether or not his religion can be lived; if it cannot then the religion should be discarded for one which can. Science has no quarrel with religion, although it disagrees with a literal interpretation of the Bible. No scientist lives who has not proved the existence of Divine Law.

Howard College must bow her head with the shame of bigotry, and a sense of having failed under stress to uphold the university tradition of open mindedness and freedom of thought.

As for Dr. Day, he has the alternative of accepting a post at either Leland Stanford University or the University of Indiana. Howard College loses a courageous mind, and Dr. Day grows in prestige among the remaining liberal institutions.—J. E. D.

The National Scholarship Average for the Fraternities

According to figures issued by the National Interfraternity Council the national fraternity scholastic average for the past year was 69.969. The lowness of this average was blamed upon Columbia University, but the dean of students there ridiculed the idea that Columbia men pulled the average down, as their average was between C and B.

In the registrar's report issued here last year the average of the fraternities was a little better than a C, about the same as Columbia's, and was a slight bit higher than the average for the non-fraternity men. Certainly Carolina's average did not pull down the national fraternity average. Among the majority of peo-

ple the idea is prevalent that fraternities tend to pull down one's scholastic work; upon the campus here, however, it is commonly accepted that fraternities have little to do with a man's grade, one way or the other. Perhaps the high rating of the Carolina fraternities in scholarship is due to the fact that the most intelligent students here join fraternities.

For the national average to fall below the passing mark is a deplorable condition. Perhaps some steps should be taken in those universities where the average is so very low to remedy conditions; certainly some fraternities must be at a rock bottom for the national average to be pulled down.

We would suggest that each university confronted with the problem of low scholarship in its fraternities establish some regulation whereby groups falling below a certain level would automatically be dissolved. For a low national average reflects discredit upon the large number of fraternities that have high scholarship and are doing something to build up and maintain scholarship.—J. D. M.

With The Churches

BAPTIST Eugene Olive, Pastor 9:45 a. m.—Sunday school. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Sermon, "Looking for the Lord," Mr. Olive. 7:00 p. m.—Young people's union. 8:00 p. m.—Pageant, "Bethlehem," directed by Mrs. Olive.

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS A. S. Lawrence, Rector 8:00 a. m.—Holy Communion. 10:00 a. m.—Bible class, Dr. U. T. Holmes. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Sermon by rector. 4:30 p. m.—Last of the teas for this quarter will be given in the parish house. 7:00 p. m.—Y. P. S. L. 8:00 p. m.—Organ program.

LUTHERAN G. A. Metz, Pastor 10:00 a. m.—Sunday school. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Services will be held in the Y. M. C. A. building instead of Gerrard hall.

METHODIST C. E. Rozzelle, Pastor 9:45 a. m.—Sunday school. Bible classes for upperclassmen and freshmen. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Sermon, "The Best Samaritan," Mr. Rozzelle. 5:00 p. m.—Afternoon services. Sermon, "The Chemistry of Character," Mr. Rozzelle. 7:00 p. m.—Epworth League.

PREBYTERIAN W. D. Moss, Pastor 9:45 a. m.—Sunday school. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Sermon, "Thou Shalt Not Muzzle the Ox When He Treadeth Out Corn," Mr. Moss. 7:45 p. m.—Illustrated lecture by Dr. W. E. Caldwell. 8:45 p. m.—Young people's social hour.

UNITED CHURCH B. J. Howard, Pastor 9:45 a. m.—Sunday school. Grady Leonard, superintendent. 11:00 a. m.—Morning services. Sermon by the pastor.

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