

Classes Should Be Cancelled

Much discussion and several proposals have been heard during the past several days about the UNC student body's return to classes January 2 after the Christmas holidays.

In this column today we shall attempt to explain the pros and cons of required class attendance the day after New Year's, with hopes that the administration will see fit to declare January 2 a day for "emergency" class cuts.

If such a declaration is made, classes would not be held January 2, but would resume on schedule at 8 a.m. Friday, January 3, two days after the New Year's holiday.

First, the administration points out the fact that, by January 17—the end of the current semester—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday classes will have been held only 43 times if students are required to return to Chapel Hill January 2.

Our semester system is built around 45 class periods in each subject, and that number already has been slashed to 43 for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday classes by the dismissal of Saturday classes the day of the Chancellor's Inauguration and the day of the Maryland Caravan Weekend.

On the other hand, Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes have progressed as scheduled, and 45 class periods will have been held for each subject taught on those days by the end of the current semester, January 17.

Consequently, if classes are not held Thursday, January 2, the number of class periods for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday will be slashed to 42 times—three below the regular 45 on which the semester system is based.

To lose sight of requirements of the semester system—that is, to flagrantly overlook and sway from the basis on which the semester system is founded—is not a good practice at the University of North Carolina or anywhere else. But circumstances sometimes prevail which justify non-conformity to practice, and we feel the New Year's holiday this year is one of them.

Reading day before examinations is one of the factors to consider in the current situation. That day has been set aside as the Saturday-before final examinations begin, and does not count as a day of class periods. Consequently, as plans now stand, there will be no classes on Saturday, January 18.

One solution whereby students would not be required to return to classes January 2 is the switching of reading day—for this one time—from the Saturday before final examinations to the Friday before those exams. It would not set a precedent, because such a situation as now exists seldom occurs at the University.

Arguments do exist against returning to classes Thursday, January 2, and we feel they are sound ones. First, many students return-

ing to Chapel Hill on New Year's day would be exposed to holiday traffic and the dangers it presents even to responsible drivers. Cold facts tell us that hundreds will lose their lives in the rush of New Year's travelling.

A second factor is that of the very return to Chapel Hill of students living hundreds of miles from North Carolina. Airplane reservations particularly will be difficult to purchase, which probably will result in the late return of many students, anyway. Briefly, New Year's Day is neither a safe time nor a good time for persons to expose themselves to distant travel.

If the administration finds sufficient cause to call off classes for Thursday, January 2, it could then do one of two things: either declare January 2 a day of "emergency" class cuts, with no classes being held, or change reading day to Friday, January 17, and pick up an extra day of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday classes on the following day, January 18.

If the latter decision were made 43 class periods still would have been held for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday classes, while Monday, Wednesday and Friday class periods would have been slashed from 45 to 44.

It seems to us that dropping one day of Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes could well be justified by the erasing of traffic threats and travel inconveniences which would result from the return to classes January 2.

We hope the administration feels the same way.

NC Hist. Should Be Required Subject

Now that the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities has urged the teaching of North Carolina history in high schools of the state, the proposal should be examined closely by Tar Heel educators.

And if they approach the proposal with an open mind, a frequently-offered elective course will be added to the mandatory curriculum of our high school programs.

History is something the world will always have. It has existed since earth was flung into its present orbit, and it shall remain until our disintegration into space. North Carolina will remain a part of it.

In this day of controversy over states' rights and central government, when powers of individual states are being eaten away by federal laws, it would be well to remember that our country is but a unity of individual states cooperating in a national effort.

To better understand the evolution of state governments, their privileges and powers, with an eye to preservation of the state and its role in the national scheme, developing minds should be required to taste of the history of their state—be it North Carolina or California.

History, when observed through a broad perspective, gives meaning to the functions of people and the continuing evolution of the world. It makes books live and it explains the decisions, the advances, of mankind.

In brief, it is the subject on which all other areas of study are based, because it follows the progressing centuries and attempts to reveal underlying causes of past, current and future decisions, developments and inventions.

North Carolina history is a part of the total development of mankind. And North Carolinians should have enough interest in and love for their state to spend several hours a week studying about it.

Virtually any American knows when his country was discovered. But how many of us in Tar Heelia know when North Carolina became a member state of the evolving nation?

It's a simple question, but it points out the fact that there's much to be known about North Carolina. We feel students should at least be exposed to the high points in the state's history.

WISE AND OTHERWISE:

Yuletide Ideas And Advice On Carolina Music

By GARY NICHOLS

Warning to people in training for New Year's Eve! Watch which lamppost you lean against. Some of them are being painted. This warning is being passed on by courtesy of an occupant of Battle dorm who was complaining to me about how hard it is to remove the green paint from your hands.

Speaking of New Year's Eve, there is much discontent around campus due to the resumption of classes on Jan. 2. This will necessitate many a student's travelling with a hangover to get back to Chapel Hill in time. Not to mention missing the bowl games on New Year's Day. Beware. South Building, revolt is in the air.

I'm crossing my fingers that no one spreads the word that they think Christmas is "Mickey Mouse." I'm scared stiff they might call it off. It's not very sophisticated, you know, I guess I'm just a big kid but I always kind of liked Christmas.

You know, I've been reading these helpful advisory articles on what to buy for Christmas gifts. The only thing they lack is advice on where to get the money.

Talking about sales advice, I crossed an enterprising salesman outside of Kenan earlier this season. He was selling the Glee Club's album of Carolina songs. Upon leaving the game I was brought short by the following pitch: "Here you go! Music to sober up by!"

Also seen at Kenan: During the Virginia game I spotted one young lady with two pennants (One Carolina and one Virginia) and two football pins (One Carolina and One (Ugh!) Dook). I've heard of fence sitting but carrying it out over a two-week period ought to be some sort of a record. She did confide, however, that she slightly favored Carolina.

Lingerie Theft Is For Children

Now comes the story that all IDC members will be present at future panty raids.

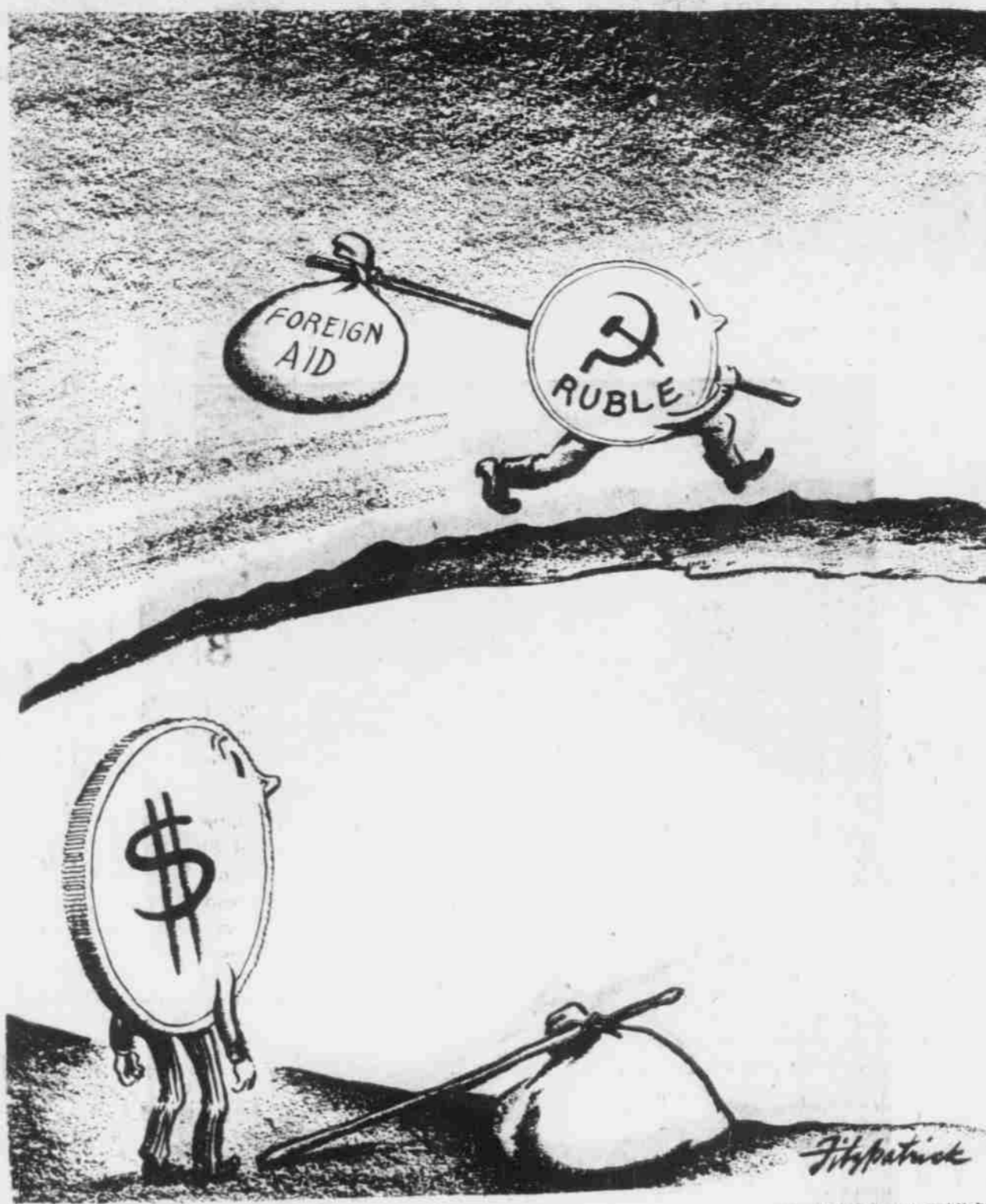
With, of course, the explanation that "it was not a suggestion of participation."

Further, the story reads: "They (panty raids) are destructive to personal and public property."

Which brings up another question: Are panty raids destructive to personal property, or do they just result in the "loss" of "personal" property?

All told, however, IDC action condemning panty raids is to be commended. Because regardless of infractions of the honor code, loss of property, etc., they just don't speak well of mature citizens.

The Down-To-Earth Missile Race



(Herblock Is on Vacation)

Trouble With Students, Parents Is In Not Knowing Their Own Minds

BARRY WINSTON

Gentle reader . . . fair citizen . . . noble student, draw closer that I may speak to you in dulcet tones of a parable that once I heard. There was, so the story goes, a donkey, mild of manner and sweet of disposition. His owner, being of an inquisitive nature, chanced upon the idea to perform an experiment of sorts. Bright and early one morning, the owner led his donkey to a small bridge which spanned a creek, murmuring cheerfully nearby. Leaving the gentle beast at the very center of the bridge, our experimenter proceeded to stack two piles of hay, one at either end of this selfsame bridge. Whereupon, he withdrew a short distance to sit and wait and watch and see to which of the two piles of hay his noble animal would trudge. But the poor, dumb brute was torn by indecision, each of the two piles being of equal distance from him. Alas, he could not make up his mind. And do you know, gentle reader . . . fair citizen . . . noble student, do you know what happened? The jackass starved to death.

And do you know what the moral of this story might be? 'Tis simplicity, itself. You are a jackass.

I repeat, for the benefit of those rapid readers who may, in their haste, have skipped the last paragraph: You are a jackass. Shall I elaborate? Very well.

You scream, in volume sufficient to deafen a sensitive man, "Defenses! We must have more defenses! We must catch Russia! Give us more scientists! Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!" Etc. etc. etc., ad nauseum. And then, scarcely stopping to draw a breath, you shout with equal vigor, "Tail fins! We must have more tail fins! We must catch the Joneses! Give us less taxes! Damn the consequences, full steam ahead!"

Does the description fit? "Not me!", you say? Try this one on for size, then: You will, if you are an average man, spend a sizable portion of your life imparting wisdom to one or more impressionable little jackasses. Your progeny. And in the course of this training, one of the more important virtues that you will attempt to imbue in their little minds is honesty. True? True. What, then, will be your reply when Junior comes up with a gem such as, ". . . but, daddy, you just said the other day that it wasn't really stealing to cheat on an income tax form. They'll never miss it, you said. So why all the fuss when I caught a measly baseball bat from Schmaltz's department store? They've got hundreds of them . . . they'll never miss just one." Or, ". . . but why can't I tell the

teacher that I was kidnapped by Martians if I'm late for school? You had Mommy say that you weren't home when that insurance salesman came around the other night."

Enough? Oh, You're just a student now, and when you get to be a parent, you'd never commit such an inconsistency? If you say so. Then how come all this yammer about athletes and academic standards? Why aren't you studying right now, instead of reading something that tells you that you're a jackass? Most of the contributions you make to the standards of this university are in the field of beer consumption, per capita. If you're so worried about academic standings why aren't you making five A's? If you're so concerned with education, why don't you try staying awake in class?

If you're so hopped up about Sputniks, and defenses, and scientists, why haven't you written a letter to your Congressman? If you're so smart, why aren't you rich?

I'll tell you why. Because you don't even know your own mind, that's why. Because you're a jackass. And so am I, for that matter, for taking the time to try to tell you about it.

So let's just work our crossword puzzles, and forget the whole thing.

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IN DJILAS' BOOK

Communism Seen As Dying System

Frank Crowther

Milovan Djilas in his book, "The New Class," certainly reflects the decaying process in the core of modern Communism. Here we have a man who has run the gamut of every phase of Communism and, through a dispassionate and intellectually honest decision, has methodically demonstrated that eventually the young, thinking men of intellectual and personal integrity who are now part of the Communist system will themselves be compelled to condemn and destroy their own system. It is undoubtedly one of the brightest lights to shine from East to West in well over a decade.

Djilas has not written a Communist expose or a disgruntled political manifesto — this is purely a moral appeal to his fellow men to realize that freedom itself is the only intrinsic quality necessary at the basis of any political system. This is why, he says, Communism cannot escape its own contradictions and will eventually devour its own entrails.

There can be no substitution for reading the book itself, but I will include here some of the more cogent passages.

In the chapter on the "Character of the Revolution," he writes, ". . . no other revolutions have required so many exceptional conditions; no other revolutions promised so much and accomplished so little. Demagoguery and misrepresentation are inevitable among the Communist leaders since they are forced to promise the most ideal society and abolition of every exploitation." ". . . The fact is simply this: they were unable to accomplish that in which they so fanatically believed." ". . . In reality, the Communists were unable to act differently from any ruling class that preceded them." ". . . In contrast to earlier revolutions, the Communist revolution, conducted in the name of doing away with classes, has resulted in the most complete authority of any single new class. Everything else is sham and an illusion."

Continuing, in the chapter on "The Party State," he says, "Party control over society, identification of the government and the governmental machinery with the party, and the right to express ideas dependent on the amount of power and the position one holds in the hierarchy; these are the essential and inevitable characteristics of every Communist bureaucracy as soon as it attains power."

"Careerism, extravagance, and love of power are inevitable, and so is corruption . . . it is a special type of corruption caused by the fact that the government is in the hands of a single political group and is the source of all privileges."

"Founded by force and violence, in constant conflict with its people, the Communist state, even if there are no external reasons, must be militaristic. The cult of force, especially military force, is nowhere so prevalent as in Communist countries."

"(the people) still live (and) function against despotism, and they preserve their distinctive features undestroyed. If their consciences and souls are smothered, they are not broken. Though they are under subjugation, they have not yielded. The force activating them today is more than the old or bourgeois nationalism; it is an imperishable desire to be their own masters, and, by their own free development, to attain an increasingly fuller fellowship with the rest of the human race in its eternal existence."

In his chapter on "Tyranny over the mind" he writes: "The proposition that Marxism is a universal method, a proposition upon which Communists are obliged to stand, must in practice lead to tyranny in all areas of intellectual activity." ". . . these unscrupulous procurers of the cheap and actually the only available consumer goods — these holders of obsolete, unchangeable, and immutable ideas — have retarded and frozen the intellectual impulses of their people. They have thought up the most antihuman words — 'pluck from the human consciousness' — and act according to these words, just as if they were dealing with roots and weeds instead of man's thoughts."

"History will pardon Communists for much . . . but the stifling of every divergent thought, the exclusive monopoly over thinking for the purpose of defending their personal interests, will nail the Communists to a cross of shame in history."

Further on, in the chapter on "The aims and the means" he explains: "Honor, sincerity, sacrifice, and love of the truth were once things that could be understood for their own sakes; now, deliberate lies, sycophancy, slander, deception, and provocation gradually become the inevitable attendants of the dark, intolerant, and all-inclusive might of the new class, and even effect relations between the members of the class."

Turning to "The present day world," he says that "the effect of atomic energy . . . will tend toward the further unification of the world. On the way, it will shatter inexorably all inherited obstacles — ownership relations and social relations, but above all exclusive and isolated systems and ideologies, such Communism both before and after Stalin's death."

In the concluding chapter, he sums up by saying, "In any case, the world will change and will go in the direction in which it has been moving and must go on — toward greater unity, progress, and freedom. The power of reality and the power of life have always been stronger than any kind of brutal force and more real than any theory."

Any man who cherishes his own freedom will cherish it even more after reading this book. The one wish that Albert Camus had for his fellow men when he received the Nobel Prize was "freedom." How little most of us know about that word.

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