

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, October 26, 1908

SOPHOMORE CLASS TAX

Class dances and the financial considerations involved therein have been a source of trouble to more than one class in the University. Particularly is this true with regard to the present sophomore class. It seems that the dance given by the class of 1911 last year cost an unusual amount of money. Owing to misfortune in management, which is another name for poor management, and the unwillingness of some to pay the tax, the class was able to raise only a part of the money necessary to pay the bills contracted by its committees. As a result, the class is this year confronted with a deficit of nearly one hundred twenty five dollars. To pay this deficit, a per capita tax of one dollar has been levied upon the members of the class. The treasurer has found himself able to collect this tax from only a part of the members. The fact that not all are disposed to pay has led to bitter dissension in the class, and the treasurer has unwisely threatened to post the names of all who will not pay. Such a course would of course amount to blackmail, and it is not probable that the treasurer thinks seriously of adopting it.

The moral of the plight of the 1911 class is obvious. It is not possible for a freshman class to finance wisely so great an undertaking as the Freshman Glee has been in years past. A modest college dance should be all that is attempted by the freshman or sophomore class. The junior class, with improved official machinery and knowledge of conditions, can alone manage a grand ball, such as hitherto have been attempted by all three classes every year. Dances have generally been given with the idea of excelling

the previous class; little regard has been paid to economy.

The incidence of dance tax is an interesting question in this connection. Taxes are levied on all members of the class; upon those who are interested in dancing and upon those who do not dance. Such procedure is unjust. Many object to dancing upon moral and religious grounds, and refuse to pay their class tax. Their scruples should be respected. Others, who do not usually object to dancing, condemn it strongly when confronted with a class tax. Their scruples are not so worthy of respect. The argument that a class dance is beneficial to all members in maintaining the social prestige of the class has some force but only for those who are interested in upholding that prestige. The other reason for giving class dances, the real enjoyment obtained, certainly cannot be applied except to students who dance. Justice can only be obtained, when some means of financing is devised whereby students shall be taxed for a dance in proportion to the benefits derived. Until such a means has been devised, trouble will arise every year over the payment of dance-tax, especially in the two lower classes.

The duty of the sophomores is plain. They should discharge the burden of debt resting upon the class. Every member without regard to his scruples should contribute his share to freeing the class from debt. Whether the class will commit a like blunder this year depends upon its members. The future is theirs to make amends in, but by all means they should clear their past record from blot.

"SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT?"

Unless kept in close and active touch with the life of the University, old students and alumni are apt to forget their college and slip away in heart and sympathies from its interests. The fault is not wholly theirs, for it is a law of our being that we remember what is recurrently before and around us, and forget that which has past out of our daily vision. Our childhood playmates, who were so dear to us, we have forgotten; the bonds that held us, of common joys and sorrows, are all but broken. Out upon the immense way of life we have gone, some to the east and the north and the south, and others to the west; we are separated in lives and in heart; those whom we loved we love no more.

Let it not be so with the friends of college days. Let us not forget. Here our hearts have been joined with a fraternity of interests, our lives cemented with mature friendships. Let us not forget. May we ever keep alive and burning the fires of love and patriotism and fellowship for our alma mater and the associations and friendships we formed there. Too quickly does the great stream of life flow over us. Was it yesterday that we walked as children in yesterdays of the world? The eddying whirlpools of destiny are

drawing us. Only with a struggle do we keep above the flood, and who knows but tomorrow will see us cast into the Great Gulf. Let us not forget. May we keep strong and firm these bonds which hold us, the ties of youth's associations. For they are strong now, and dear and sweet to us. And in the tumult of the years, we shall sometimes snatch a moment to look backwards. And we shall find that the friendships made in our college days, and the associations formed there have indeed woven themselves into the very fibre of our beings. And memory, touching the chords of love and sympathy upon the heart strings woven of the past, will fill our souls with kind thoughts, and we shall know for a surety that our world is a good world.

PRIZE NOW TWENTY DOLLARS

Twenty dollars is now the amount that awaits the composers of winning songs and yells. The executive committee of the student body has contributed five dollars. The remaining two dollars and fifty cents was contributed personally by Charles E. Widlund, '12, the stalwart center of the second football team.

The prize will now be divided into two amounts of ten dollars each, one prize for the best yell and the other for the best song. The committee hopes to receive fifty more contributions this week. Many songs have been handed in, most of them parodies on popular airs, but few yells have made their appearance. The contest will continue all this week. The winners will be announced and the prizes awarded at the College Hour to be held on the campus one week from Wednesday.

Every institution of higher learning in the northwest is having the same trouble in this matter as is Oregon. In nearly every one a prize has been offered. Not from the incentive of a money reward but out of pure college spirit it would seem that Oregon should produce a yell more deafening and awe-inspiring and a song more thrilling than any sister college. If such a yell or such a song is to be forthcoming, it must appear during the present week.

Another poster defaced the campus this morning. It was to announce a meeting of the Taft Club. The bulletin board is the place for such notices.

On account of the press of news matter, the Weekly desires that literary society notices do not hereafter contain more than one hundred words, except in cases of especial interest.

Alumni items are most welcome. They should be addressed to the alumni editor.

No reports have been received this week from the Engineers' Club nor from the Philologist Society.

Try your hand at a yell or song and hand it in to the committee this week. Help your college and yourself.