

# THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, November 2, 1908

## SOPHOMORE CLASS TAX

In another column appears a lengthy communication from Mr. Arthur Geary, president of the sophomore class, taking exceptions to an editorial in the Oregon Weekly for October 26. Although the Weekly begrudges so much valuable space, this communication is printed in full, unchanged, except for a few corrections of glaring errors in spelling and punctuation. The Weekly does not propose to descend to controversy. Every person or newspaper has a right to opinions, although generally they are expressed in a more gentlemanly manner than that adopted by the sophomore president.

The editorial in question was written by the editor-in-chief, who must, granting Mr. Geary's contention, be a "malicious," "willful," "bombastic," and "idiotic" liar, respecting no man's religion, and not entitled to an opinion of his own. So be it. The information for the editorial was gathered by a regular member of the Oregon Weekly staff, who interviewed prominent sophomores upon the matter. If mistakes were made, they were made by sophomores, who surely ought to know their own class affairs better than to misinform a reporter upon such an important topic. Having all of its facts from the authority of the sophomores themselves, the Weekly cannot retract a word without bringing Mr. Geary's classmates into the same category of "willful," "bombastic," "malicious," "idiotic," and altogether undesirable citizens as itself. The tone of Mr. Geary's communication will keep that gentleman above the imputation of being subject to such a classification. Ordinarily it is not pleasant for a person to endure op-

probious epithets, and generally an editor would not admit to the columns of a paper an article in which such epithets were heaped upon him. But in the interest of fairness, and for the sake of the humorous value of the communication, Mr. Geary's letter is printed in full.

The matter was first brought to editorial attention, when the sophomore treasurer attempted to buy outright a column in the Weekly to be filled with "news" calculated to force collection of class tax. He was informed that no reputable newspaper would so prostitute its news columns. Then he asked for a writeup. A reporter was accordingly detailed to cover the case, and the editorial of October 26 was the result. The Weekly regrets that it has to give the facts, and must denounce the ingenious and ingenuous scheme of blackmail, devised, as Mr. Geary tells us, by the entire sophomore class.

To post names in a newspaper, would give action for libel. To post them on a bulletin board is an act no less unwise, even if less courageous. The Weekly realizes that some members of every class are professional "dead-beats," that they attend all class affairs, and try to escape taxes. But the sophomores should devise some means of collecting whereby they can retain their own self-respect and the respect of others. Millracing does not amount either to libel or to blackmail, and is surely as effective. The Weekly agrees with Mr. Geary that "an honest end should be gained by honest means."

## COLLEGE HOUR

No student should stay away from the college hour on the campus Wednesday of this week at ten o'clock. An interesting program will be provided, but best of all will be the opportunity for students to mingle and become better acquainted. Only by some such device can the growing student-body be held together and college spirit be fostered and preserved and promoted.

Students should wear any class insignia that they may possess, such as caps, sweaters and pins. In this way each one will be plainly labeled, so that "he who runs may read."

The faculty will be there in force, and will probably give a cheer for itself as usual. Loosley will lead the yells and songs submitted in the contest and the prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Informality is the essence of the college hour. All meet upon the common footing of membership in the University, of allegiance to it and love for it. No one should come away without having made at least fifty new acquaintances.

The University is a democracy of the purest type. In it, as in the earliest democracies of history, it is possible for all members of the government to come together to discuss matters of import and interest.

## A Communication.

To the Editor:

In the last edition of the Oregon Weekly appeared an editorial with the heading, "Sophomore Class Tax." After gathering together a few facts, an editor certainly has the privilege of writing upon such a subject. But this editorial, in conventional language, was a misrepresentation from beginning to end. The title, itself, believeth the main point brought out in the article; to have been correct the title should have read, "Outsiders should be excluded from Underclass Dances." But the misrepresentation in regard to the title was but a small fault.

In order to bring out his main point, the editorialist resorted to falsehood, whether deliberate or unintentional is not known. He overestimates the former indebtedness of the class by forty dollars, and after attempting to exonerate members for not bearing their share of class expenses, ignored the fact that outstanding bills have been paid, and urged in bombastic flow of rhetoric that the duty of the sophomore was plain, i. e., that they should pay their bills and clear their past record from blot.

But what was worse than this malicious, ignorant blundering was the writer's attack upon the class treasurer, who is voluntarily attempting to fulfill the heavy duties placed upon him. The treasurer was accused of blackmail, because of his expressed intention to carry out the order placed upon him by his class, that of posting the names of those members who, for no good reason, refused to pay and have not paid their class taxes. Instead of placing the burden of such a measure upon the class, where it belonged, the editorialist chose to revile the treasurer and by arousing ill will against him, interfere with the carrying out of his duties.

I would like to say a little in regard to the so-called blackmail. The class is a close organization, similar to that of the student body; all business is carried on according to the rule of the majority. It is true that many members of the class do not desire pleasure from dances; also is it true that many members of the student body do not derive enough pleasure from the different college enterprises to warrant the expenditure of their five dollar student body tax. If the majority of the class do not desire class dances, these should be discontinued; certainly it is idiotic to suggest that the members who dance should pay for a hop and give it in the name of the class.

Contrary to the editorial, the sophomore class respects religious principles. If a member consistently says that he cannot pay the tax because of religious beliefs, he is not bothered further and his name will not be posted. But it is found to be a fact that a great many who do not pay the dance tax also refuse to pay or somehow escape paying other smaller taxes

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