

It is very lamentable that the present situation has been allowed to develop, wherein a fine body of parents has become divided into two armed camps, jealous and suspicious of each other, with accusations being loosely thrown in all directions. The T'Birds parents seem to think that the Cadet parents are trying to subvert their efforts. The Cadets parents feel that theirs is a case of taxation without representation. The present management has been pursuing a policy of "get rid of Avery, at any cost, because he won't give us any buglers, and he has a silly idea that the Cadet Corps should be allowed to compete with the other B corps."

The facts in the case are that 24 playing members have moved up into the T'Birds in 2 1/2 years and 17 girls into the Color Guard. I doubt if the T'Birds would have achieved their past year's success if the Cadet graduates had just been operating as a parade corps for the previous two years, as is now being recommended by management for the coming year.

The personal vilification I have been subjected to for the past year is just a by-product of the deeper power struggle going on. In the past 8 years I have recruited over 80% of all the new members coming into the corps and have solicited over \$10,000 in contributions from co-sponsors and turnouts. Since February of 1963 I have solicited \$1,625 in donations from co-sponsors for the Cadets, and Mr. Stubbs has generated \$870 in donations from Woodrow Wilson and Cadet Color Guard activities. There has been a continuous effort in recruiting and training new members, averaging three days a week, the year round.

I am most anxious that the Cadets will always look forward to graduating into the T'Birds. I know that there is sufficient talent within the T'Birds now to perpetuate the calibre of performance they have achieved. Based on their results in the past two years I don't think they have the time or talent for recruiting new members to maintain their numbers.

For the good of the organization's future, I am recommending that the Cadet Corps be continued as a part of the Thunderbird organization, with separate management, elected by its own parent body, separate training, selected by its own management, separate financing and budgeting, based on its own co-sponsors, turnouts and fund raising promotions, and completely separate financial responsibilities. The membership of the Cadets will consist of 5th thru 9th graders, with 9th graders eligible to audition for membership in the T'Birds, with the option of remaining with the Cadets thru their 9th grade.

At the present time there are 13 9th grade level and up members of the Cadets who should certainly be able to replenish the ranks of the T'Birds lost to college and overage. If the above proposal is agreed upon by the combined parent group, and the new management of the Thunderbirds is more interested in perpetuating a harmonious organization than in promoting a personal vendetta against the Cadet management and instructors, The Thunderbirds can once again concentrate on beating the Shamrocks instead of wasting their energies fighting each other.

I feel there is an obligation to the co-sponsors who have contributed nearly \$2,500 (including the Wilson School activities) for the equipment funds of the Cadets, to continue the Cadets as a competition corps, with this amount of equipment assigned permanently for their use, by the present combined parent body. All future donations to and fund raising projects by the Cadets will remain the property of the Cadets. Combined projects by both corps will be divided equitably based on degree of participation. Enough said. Sincere parents, come vote!

Jack Avery