

OREGON EMERALD

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Saturday, November 6, 1909

The Theatre Question

Can the University of Oregon hold its own concerts in its own buildings in its own way? This is the only issue involved in the dispute between the Glee Club and the Eugene Theatre. The latter says no.

In spite of his many protestations of philanthropy and righteousness, Manager Smith has done nothing less than deny Mr. Geary the right to give his concert. Geary did not go to Smith and ask for his theatre. He knew all along that he could not afford to take it at the usual price. Therefore, he was making other arrangements.

Were Smith an outside man with no obligations of loyalty to a local institution, he might have a right to object as a good business man. He might attempt to compromise with the students. But even as a matter of business, there are some limits. No one should resort to schemes of blackmail and boycott in order to force others to patronize their firms.

This is what Smith does. He says, "patronize my house or you can't show in any town outside of Eugene."

But Smith is not an ordinary business man in his relation to the University students. He is under obligations to them for making his business a success. When, therefore, he charges them not the same but more than any one else, when he insists that they use his hall instead of their own, and threatens to ruin them if they refuse to accede to his demands, his action can be classed as nothing less than contemptible.

On closer examination, however, Smith's action is not surprising. He has never supported the students as he should. He advertises in none of the college publications. With the customary instincts of monopoly, he never spends a cent unless he sees a dollar rising to take its place in his own pocket. He is glad to accept the advertisement that the students frequently give him and the favor with which all companies look upon a college town, but he is slow in returning the debt.

We believe that there is a law against such actions as Smith has taken. But we do not wish to put this matter on a pure legal basis. Justice is above law. The point we wish to make is that there is a simple way for the students to make their influence felt and in a way that will quickly bring the manager of the theatre to terms. The students are his largest patrons. All they need to do

is to withdraw this patronage. Nor will it be as severe as most think. True, he has the only theatre in town, but he would not hold out long against concerted student action. Besides, come down to facts, most of his shows that he advertises as first class productions are not worth seeing anyway. They usually go to about third rate houses in Portland.

There's no use denying it, last night's rally was a fizzle like the bonfire. It shouldn't have been attempted, but after it was, the Oregon Spirit should have made good. Well, there is one more chance—at the O. A. C. game. If that doesn't wake some of these dead ones up, nothing will.

The names of all who intend to enter the Inter-collegiate Oratorical tryout must be in by next Monday. This contest offers a favorable chance for the new men because it comes early in the season. Every freshman should get busy and try his ability as an orator.

Professor Frink's class in bridge construction has pronounced the Springfield wagon bridge unsafe. This matter should be looked into by the authorities so that future accidents may be avoided.

The Morning Register does work for the University of Oregon free. The Eugene Theatre charges it extra. Pretty good spirit.

WHITMAN IS HOPEFUL IN SPITE OF DEFEAT

Walla Walla, Nov. 3. (Special to the Emerald).—Whitman backers are not all cast down over the defeat administered to the football team last Friday by the heavier O. A. C. aggregation. It is felt that the Missionaries lost only because of lack of weight, and a little hard luck that caused a Whitman man to drop the ball after a magnificent gain on a forward pass that brought him to the O. A. C. 7-yard line.

The team is practicing hard every day until after dark, and going through signal practice in the gymnasium at night in preparation for the coming game with the University of Washington at Seattle next Saturday. Although not anticipating a victory over the scoring machine of Coach Dobie's, the Missionaries do not expect that Washington will have the easy proposition that she met at Idaho.

George Oldright, the veteran end and halfback, who announced his decision not to don a suit this season, has at last turned out for the squad, and will probably be seen in action against the Seattle men next Saturday. Oldright's presence is a valuable addition to the Missionary squad. He weighs only 155 pounds, but is fast, heady and gritty. Last year he received the vote of Norcross of O. A. C. for All-Northwest end. Johnson, the Freshman halfback, who was injured in the game with Idaho two weeks ago, has thrown away his crutches and is out with the squad again.

Dr. Leonard's Address Timely

One of the most interesting and forceful addresses that has been heard at the Men's meetings this year was delivered by Dr. Leonard in Deady Hall last night. The subject, "Football, or Playing the Game," was particularly timely and Dr. Leonard handled the subject in a unique manner that held the closest attention of every man in the room.

Olive Donnell of Portland will re-enter college Monday.

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Literary Societies.

Last Saturday evening the Laurean and Philologist societies held short and interesting meetings, the regular programs being supplemented by some rather humorous remarks. Following are their programs for next Saturday, Nov. 6.

LAUREAN SOCIETY.

Discussion of the North Pole Controversy. For Cook—Conwell. For Peary—Allen.

Dialogue—Luckey and Garrabrout. Debate—Resolved: "That Railroad Pooling Should Be Sanctioned by Law." Aff.—Johns, Warner, Martzloff. Neg.—St. John, Stassney, Zimmerman.

PHILOLOGIAN PROGRAM

Recitation—Thomas. Debate—Resolved, That the state should call a constitutional convention to revise the state's constitution. Affirmative—Norton, Calkins, Shantin. Negative—Unthank, Bailey, Stine. Parliamentary Drill.

Buchen Will Help Debaters

Coach Buchen has announced to the debaters that he will be glad to talk over with any man who is trying out for debate any points which are not clear to him. He has also posted a bibliography on the bulletin board in the Library, of all the material on the subject that is to be found in the Library at the present time, this will be added to as the other material which has been sent for arrives. All of the material is at the desk and can be used only on the permission of the Librarian. No one will be allowed to take any of the books or pamphlets out of the Library. By following this plan, it is hoped that all of the material will be available to all of the men throughout the season.

Grace Bartlett Dill is visiting her sister, Neta Bartlett, at the Gamma Delta Gamma house.

W. E. Boddy

J. E. Russell

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