

# OREGON EMERALD

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## Class Rush Vs. Hazing

The tribes of Oceanica were wont to resort to taboo to enforce the tribal customs but college people being more intellectual prefer hazing. The motives behind the two are the same, they are both social penalties designed to enforce social conventions.

Whenever a university attempts to impress its character traditions or customs on its students there is a necessity for coercion of some kind which is apt to express itself in hazing. In all colleges the new students are expected to conform. They must observe the habits, customs and traditions that the men before them have made. Most of these are founded on reason or necessity, yet to a freshman they are often absurd or ridiculous. Still the newcomers are asked to conform rigidly.

Mores, from whence the word morals, —customs and conventions are naturally evolved in every community and singularly enough colleges, the supposed realm of the intellectual, are particularly productive of peculiar customs.

The efforts towards enforcement of these rules naturally grate on the new men. At first there appears no reason for observing customs of which they cannot see the need. Then sense of personal importance is offended by orders from the old men. Many fail to realize they are entering a community with fixed standards and buck over the traces. Like most conventions these college customs are without the sanction of law and must rely upon united public sentiment for enforcement. Hence hazing, which is the efforts of the community to compel conformity.

This is intended as an interpretation not as an apology for hazing for manifestly hazing at Oregon must cease. In the present state of public sentiment hazing cannot be tolerated here and if it is a choice between hazing and some of the college customs the latter must not, the former must be abandoned. So long, however, as the University attempts to impress itself upon the freshmen, so long will the motives for hazing exist in spite of all regulations.

There is always danger of a calamity —for a hazing incident would mean nothing less to the University,—being precipitated by collisions between obstreperous freshmen and arrogant sophomores. Indeed so long as underclass men have good red blood in their veins more favorable conditions for a fight would be hard to find. The soph has been in college a bare year. The liberty of the release from "Freshdom" has gone to his head. He is bubbling over with enthusiasm and loyalty to the institutions and customs to which he has sworn fealty. In comes the freshman, who naturally resents dictation and a

trivial incident may cause hazing.

We still have these conditions at Oregon, yet have done away with hazing. The occasion for hazing is here as much as ever. Little irritating incidents are accumulating. The steam pressure is rising but there is no safety valve to prevent explosion.

Other colleges recognize this danger and admit the necessity of affording an outlet to this feeling. They acknowledge the desire of personal encounter, to call it plainly, the love of a fight—but insist that it shall be open and above board and so regulated as to preclude violence or injury. Class rush, flag day, tug of war—it is called by various names, but the principle is the same, something that will allow the underclasses to settle the question of physical superiority with as little damage as possible. After the row every body shakes hands and forgets and animosities are dropped.

"But," some one says, "the flag rush was tried at Oregon and discontinued because it led to injury, violence and destruction of property. As tradition comes down to us, however, the Oregon flag rush was unlimited and unregulated by any known rules of civilized warfare. Buildings were broken into, the campus damaged and features ruined indiscriminately. Could such an affair not be under strict regulations and supervision by upper classmen? Could the scrap not be confined to open space and all murderous weapons as bricks, rocks and clubs be tabooed? Even freshmen have a glimmering conception of fair play and sportsmanship and with efficient referees there is no reason why the rush should be more unladylike than revised football. If the rush occurred at the beginning of the year the sophomores as is proper would win through lack of freshman organization. The freshmen would learn their place and for the remainder of the year all would run smoothly as a freshman class meeting.

The precise nature of such a contest could be easily determined. There are a dozen games that would serve or else a brand new game could be devised by simple rules. But above all the contest should be under strict supervision by upper classmen or faculty.

But now Professor Dry-as-Dust arises and holds the whole scheme up to ridicule, "for what could be more absurd than allowing a great university enforcing silly customs by unseemly rows?"

Perhaps, but society enforces its conventions in just as peculiar ways. The snub for instance.

On assuming office the new president of 1914 arose and exhorted his cohorts that he would willingly be buried if but allowed the inscription "Booster." Unless he boosts to the extent of adopting the green class insignia, appropriate to his verdant sappy temperament he may find himself buried in the graveyard of oblivion without any inscription at all worth mentioning.

## PAN-HELLENIC LEAGUE SCRAMBLE ENDS MONDAY

Much to the relief of everyone concerned the rushing week authorized by the Pan Hellenic league closed with bidding day Monday. Today is answering day and the list of pledges to the different sororities is now available.

Kappa Alpha Theta—Eleanor McClain, Frances Adams, Bess Cowden, Maurine McAdams, Hazel Rader, Genevieve Wilcox, Lila Sengstake, Alepha Emerick.

Chi Omega—Wilhma Young, Rose Basler, Grace Cole, Lucille Davis, Ganny Gregory, Doris Plummer.

Gamma Phi Beta—Ruth Beach, Edith Sheehy, Alesa Hawley, Essie Carson, Marie Zimmerman, Grace Bean.

Delta Delta Delta—Jennie Fry, Hazel Foster, Ethel Risley, Amy Romaine, Pauline VanOrsdale, Ellice Shurrer.

The Lambda Rho sorority entertained with a dancing party Saturday evening in their beautiful new house.

## SECRETARY FINDS FAULT WITH THE NEW PAN-HELLENIC

Communication By Miss Willetta Wright On Working of New Rushing Plan.

Early last May Gamma Phi Beta, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kloshe Tillicum formed Pan-Hellenic association to regulate sorority rushing. After careful selection ten by-laws were adopted which were thought would cover every emergency, and make rushing fair.

The rules have been given a fair trial, each sorority has lived up to the letter of the laws, and all are agreed that they are woefully lacking.

In the first place Pan-Hellenic is formed for the purpose of simplifying rushing. But the one week of rushing instead of simplifying things only concentrates the activities into one strenuous out put. In one or two instances as much as seventy dollars was spent for a single simple function.

The girls come back from vacation rested, prepared to take up work. The one week of nervous activities make them ready for another vacation instead of readiness for class work.

Pledge day should be made either one or two days after matriculation, the short time making it necessary for girls to be rushed during the summer, or not until the second semester as is done in many colleges.

Secondly, Pan-Hellenic is formed for the purpose of giving each sorority a fair chance in becoming acquainted with a girl. But many of the rules do not tend in practice to make this possible. Although the girls must attend the "normal" if she is invited, the rest of her time is arranged by the house in which she happens to be staying. And of course, there is the chance for that house to see that all of her time is taken.

Then again, it is not fair to the rushee or to the sorority members themselves that the girls be invited to spend the first week in the sorority houses. For if a girl after her week's visit is not bid by the sorority at whose house she has been staying, there are apt to be hard feelings, and much of her time is lost in getting settled again.

But if the girl is "bid," having accepted the hospitality of a house her decision can not be unbiased.

Take in all conditions at Oregon, make it necessary that new rules be made and it is hoped that the Pan Hellenic officers will profit by this year's mistakes in making the new rules.

—WILLETTA WRIGHT, '11.

## PRESIDENT ADDRESSES FIRST ASSEMBLY TODAY

(Continued from page one.)

"The state trusts the faculty to see that the University makes good, the faculty must prepare subject matter and present it in such a way as to instruct, and inspire the students with a love for their work. If the work and assignments are a little larger this year it is only a recognition of proved ability. The spirit of honesty should be taught and practiced and the habit of bluffing should be stopped.

"There is danger in trying to make short cuts. Good, honest work is the only road to success. I would advise you not to waste time down town for it becomes a habit that is hard to break and leads to many a young student's downfall.

"In closing let me urge as a help to making good a liberal baptism of "Oregon Spirit." Loyalty of service and democracy are indispensable to success and should be cultivated by every student."

Before the address Dean Sanderson of the Bible University gave a scripture reading and prayer and the Glee Club led the audience in singing the toast.



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