

OREGON EMERALD

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A Commonwealth Course

Were one to ask the first ten men he met on the campus the number of signatures necessary to inaugurate an initiative or referendum petition, or to inquire how many votes Taft received in Oregon, it is safe to say that eight could not answer correctly. The ignorance of most of us on such matters is remarkable and deplorable. The state of Oregon is educating us for leaders, yet the University is yearly turning out graduates who, through ignorance and lack of interest, are not capable of assuming this leadership.

This deficiency could be largely corrected by the establishment of a course treating of the major features of the Oregon laws, of the evolution of the state government and in a non-sectarian way, of course, of state politics. Perhaps it could best be described as the commonwealth course, designed to equip for the best service to the commonwealth of Oregon, to fit in with the University's already established "commonwealth" policy.

Aside from thus contributing an invaluable service to the state, the College would be offering an opportunity for training that would be extremely practical and useful to all classes of its students.

Such acquaintance with state laws and politics is essential to the well equipped engineer. To the embryonic lawyer a full and complete knowledge of state administration and state constitutional history is, of course, required, and with equal suffrage threatening us from just across the Columbia, the Oregon co-eds, at least the seriously inclined minority of them, should find such a course unusually interesting and beneficial as a preparation for the duties of the franchise.

In addition, however, to the individual side, there is the debt we owe the state, which expects a return for its educational investment in community leaders and trained voters. This obligation is deepened and emphasized by our peculiar Oregon system of government, which has prevailed for the last ten years, and which has transformed our state into a huge political science laboratory.

New political problems have been thrown into the bubbling retort for practical solution. The results have been closely watched and carefully tabulated by an interested public. These experiments, particularly those in direct government, have imposed new and heavy responsibilities upon all of us. The eyes of the world are upon Oregon, our government is being tested and we, as voters, must acquaint ourselves with the questions before the state.

Since the untimely demise of the Midnight Doughnut, Oregon has been without a humorous publication. This is bad for us, individually and collectively, for no person or institution should be without a proper means of outlet for the humor that springs eternal in the human breast. Unless idiosyncracies are caricatured and foibles exposed, one is prone to become too smugly self-complacent and satisfied. A humorous paper would fulfill this important func-

tion of occasionally holding up the mirror to these peculiarities, and would thus save us from the deadening weight of our own self-sufficiency.

Then, too, such a paper would provide a valid outlet for the enthusiasm of our college humorists, whose efforts, at present, frequently work out in less harmless and less innocent ways. Also it would afford a means of expression for the many really humorous happenings and sayings that college life gives rise to.

The Emerald is too profoundly impressed with the dignity and sublimity of its mission to lapse into the humorous, and although the Monthly of late has shown an alarming, if feeble, tendency in that direction, the efforts are spasmodic and it will no doubt soon resume the even tenor of its respectable but colorless existence.

Anyhow, a humorous publication would not infringe on the Monthly field, for there is a place for them both.

Naturally, our first efforts to be funny might be a bit crude, but no one should expect a "Tiger" or "Lampoon" at the start, and that the paper would be immediately popular is evinced by the instantaneous success of the Doughnut.

Here is presented a real and promising opening for the proper person, gifted with moderate enterprise and cleverness. There is the chance to do something permanent and to achieve a lasting fame that will go thundering down through future generations of Oregon students. Who will seize the opportunity?

Every college in the state will send delegates to attend the Oratorical Contest and conference which occur here March 10. The University of Oregon will be host this year, and there is thus presented an excellent opportunity to make sincere friends among the colleges of the state, and to dispel the illusion which prevails in some of these smaller denominational institutions, that the State University is the stamping ground of iniquity and a mere refuge for trilling "rich sons of the idle." Let us take the visitors to our bosom and show by the warmth of our welcome that we are sincerely glad they came. Rush them around a bit, perhaps there might be some fraternity material discovered.

LAUREAN SOCIETY WILL IMITATE CONGRESS

At Deady Hall, next Saturday night, the Laureans will complete plans for resolving the society temporarily into a mock House of Representatives. This proposition has been thoroughly discussed by prominent Laurean members for some time, and it is thought that the plan, if adopted, will not only arouse new interest in society work, but also prove very valuable from a literary standpoint.

The several members of the society will each represent a state, and in so far as possible work in harmony with the conditions and needs of his state. In place of the regular debate as heretofore held, some specific resolution will be introduced by a member of the house, and debated by different representatives who support and oppose the measure.

While the National Congress convenes, the more important measures introduced in the House will be taken up and discussed in the society. This mock House of Representatives will be substituted for the regular program, with the exception of a few extra numbers in the way of entertainment.

The rumor occasionally heard on the campus that the Laureans are destined to go the way of the Philologists is entirely disproved by the interest shown in the new movement.

Every Laurean is urged to be present next Saturday night, as each member will be assigned a state at that time. House committee appointments will also be made.

There is a student with degrees from both Wycliff College, Kent, England, and from Marlborough College, England, and the Bradley Court Agricultural College, England. Students from secondary schools in both Germany and Switzerland are also enrolled.

Prof. and Mrs. Sweetser, Prof. and Mrs. DeCou, were dinner guests Thursday evening at the Tri Delta house.

PRESIDENT CAMPBELL NOT SEEING GOVERNOR

Guard and Telegram Give Misleading Reports

Misleading reports have appeared in several papers, notably the Portland Telegram and the Eugene Guard, which charged President Campbell with making a special trip to Salem to interview Governor Oswald West and of attempting to persuade the governor to veto the second University appropriation bill.

This story, which is absolutely unfounded, had it doped out from the fertile imagination of some reporter that President Campbell had become agitated by the referendum talk and was striving to avert the petition by decreasing the money available for the University.

President Campbell is away on an entirely different mission, and never considered such a policy as the Telegram and Guard charge him with.

W. C. Nicholas, '10, better known under his nom de plume of "Skipper," came up from Portland last night for a week end trip to look after his interests here and to give the Emerald staff some wholesome advice.

CALENDAR
 * Saturday, Feb. 25—
 * 7:00 P. M., Deady, Laureans.
 * 7:30 P. M., Gymnasium, Y. W. C. A. County Fair.
 * Monday, Feb. 27—
 * 4:00 P. M., Villard, Senior Class Meeting.
 * Tuesday, Feb. 28—
 * 4:45 P. M., Deady, Eutaxians.
 * 8:00 P. M., Oregon vs. W. S. C.
 * Wednesday, March 1—
 * 10:00 A. M., Rev. J. B. Wise at Assembly.
 * * * * *

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