

OREGON EMERALD

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Wednesday, January 10, 1912.

A Bad Ruling.

The Emerald cannot help thinking that the committee on oratory and debate made a mistake in ruling, recently, that a contestant in an oratorical tryout cannot use an oration with which he won a former tryout. The reason stated for such a ruling is that the one using a former victorious oration has had more time and opportunity to improve his oration than the others have had, and has had the benefit of faculty training and criticism, and consequently has an advantage over the other contestants.

Well, suppose he has an advantage, why should it be taken from him? The object of a tryout is not to appease all candidates, but to pick out the strongest orator; that man who will best represent his University in the oratorical contests; and if some student has a masterpiece and both intercollegiate leagues allow him to use it, we cannot see why the committee should object to his using it just to help out the other contestants who are afraid they will be beaten.

This ruling means in practice that the student winning one contest will be barred from participation in the tryouts following, for the work he must put on his winning oration will leave him no time in which to write another. This means that the best orator, should there be a best orator, in the University, will represent his college in but one contest.

We think the committee on oratory and debate will do well to reconsider this ruling.

Pledging High School Students

A communication from Arthur Geary on pledging High School students to fraternities, printed in this issue, is worth reading and considering. It is certainly a deplorable state when our fraternities have to go into the high schools and pledge prospective Varsity students, who have not yet completed their second or third year of school, in order to keep their ranks filled. It should be an honor for a man to become a member of one of Oregon's fraternities, and a high school student should be made to demonstrate his qualities pretty thoroughly before being asked to join one;—demonstrate them not only in the high school, but during the first year or first semester he attends college. Under the present system there is danger in some of the high school students getting the idea that they are in demand, are needed, and cannot be gotten along without—very bad ideas for an incoming student to have. Furthermore the fraternities run the risk of filling their houses with a number of undesirables, for experience has shown that a prominent high school man does not necessarily make a good varsity man.

The fraternities will have to act together in this matter, for it would be foolish for one or two to change the system and get knifed by the others, but all acting alike it might work wonders towards raising the standard of all fraternities.

SAGE OF PODUNK

When you borrow money, borrow it from a pessimist, he don't expect it back, anyway.

There is no use trying to live an aeroplane life on a subway income.

An optimist is a man who doesn't look into an Albany sandwich.

If everyone said only what they thought, some of us wouldn't do much talking.

Peter Funk says we kin always tell what kinder wheels a man has in his head by the kinder spokes that come outer his mouth.

It pays to advertise. We would never know that the rooster was an early riser, if he didn't crow about it every morning. B. C., '14.

NO RETURN CONCERT THIS YEAR—SAY POWERS

The prospect of the return concert of the Glee Club in conjunction with the California Club has been given up on account of the failure of the California management to accept the only available dates open at the Eugene Theatre.

On account of this prospective affair there was some misunderstanding among the students as to the date of the student body dance. The student body dance will be given Saturday as advertised and there will be no conflict of student activities.

Senior Memorial.

The senior memorial committee, appointed to suggest what memento be left at the University by the present outgoing class, invites the co-operation of all seniors and other interested students. All ideas should be communicated to Chester Moores or Ralph Newland.

Mr. Bearhans, of Stanford, was entertained at the Delta Sigma House Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. S. D. Read entertained the members of Delta Sigma at dinner Saturday evening.

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