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GEARY RAPS PLEDGING OF HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Opens Question for Discussion and Hopes to See Frats Act Unit-edly On It.

To the Editor:

When in Portland for the holidays I noticed fraternity men from the University of Oregon rushing young preparatory school students, who had not completed their second year of academic work. This emphasized a belief which I have held for a long time, namely that the fraternities should oppose unitedly the pledging of students before they actually enter the University. In order to open a question which has already been discussed, I respectfully submit the ensuing communication:

From the standpoints of the University, the incoming student, and the fraternities, a rule under which no freshman is asked to join a fraternity until the middle or the end of the opening week of college would be advisable,—an elaborate system of rules such as the Pan Hellenic would not be necessary.

When certain high school students of the nobbler, "already made" variety are adorned with pledge pins and are shown attention by college men, the other students in the high schools feel that they are being discriminated against. They are not in a position to see life at Oregon as a whole, but have this one phase of it impressed upon them until they decide to seek "far off fields," go to schools where the fraternity system is not so pronounced, or give up college altogether. Then too, the very high school students, to whom so much attention has been shown, often are persuaded that they have pledged themselves to the wrong fraternity, or with the novelty of being shown attention by Oregon students and of enjoying the hospitalities of the University worn away, seek fresh fields of conquest and leave their hosts with depleted pocket books in a state of humiliation.

It is obvious that the high school student that is pledged during his academic career, is not treated fairly as he is often rushed off his feet and joins a chapter that would not naturally be his preference. Then, too, the men who pledged him and whom he likes, may have graduated by the time he enters college and he may find that the men he is associated with, are not congenial.

Forgetting for a moment the other parties interested about a rule barring the pledging of high school students would be advantageous to the fraternities. They would still have the incentive to show prospective students attention, but would be saved from the humiliation of having their college and their fraternity turned down by men whom they have pledged. Such a rule would dignify the fraternities and the University as well.

The practice of not admitting freshmen to fraternities, at all, is in vogue in Wisconsin and some other Universities. Under this system the freshmen are inspired with loyalty to their college first and to their fraternity second. It is doubtful whether this is always the case under the present system. However, from the financial point of view and possibly from some others, the establishment of such a custom at the University of Oregon is impossible; but a step towards it in the doing away with the pledging of preparatory school students, viewed from all points of the compass, seems advisable.

ARTHUR M. GEARY.

Cabinets to Meet.

The Y. M. and Y. W. cabinets will meet tonight (Wednesday) at the Chi Omega House for a social time. Topics of value and interest to both cabinets will be discussed.

Miss Margaret Hawkins will spend the week-end with Miss Marguerite Rankin.

Miss Hazel Lawrence will visit her sister, Mabel, for a week or two, arriving next Friday.

ALUMNI NOTES

John, "Jack," Latourette, '07, practices law in Portland.

Miss Jennie Tilly, '10, is teaching in Lebanon High School.

Mrs. Kate Fullerton Graham, '09, is at home in Minneapolis, Minn.

Ferd Neubauer, '10, is teaching mathematics in Oakland High School.

Willie Williams, '10, is with the General Electric Co., Schenectady, Pa.

Eberle Kuykendall, '08, graduates from Cooper Medical School this spring.

Miss Frances Young, '10, is taking post graduate work at Stanford University.

Miss Cora Riggs Wold, '05, teaches mathematics in Washington High School, Portland.

Harry Yanswich, Law, '06, represented Parkinson legally during the referendum case.

Ward Ray, '08, is taking post graduate work in chemistry in the University of Berlin.

Reuben V. Steelquist, '09, a recent benedict, is a constructing engineer, residing in this city.

Mozelle Hair, '08, is secretary of the correspondence study department of the University of Oregon.

Jessie H. Bond, '09, is principal of the Gilliam County High School. Jesse is a recent benedict. He married Elsie Davis, '08.

Prof. Johnson reports that the story of his vacation trip related in the last issue of the Emerald, is a true account.—The editor thought he was publishing a good fake story.

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