

OREGON EMERALD

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Tuesday, January 14, 1913.

CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Associated Students provides that an amendment shall be submitted for the first reading at a regular meeting. This means that those interested in proposed changes, must begin to perfect the wording of their pet measures and to organize their forces, for the meeting held on February 26 is the last until that of May 7.

The question of making the Woman's Glee Club a branch of student activity is awaiting the action of the students. This organization was granted temporary status as a department of the Student Body by the Executive Council, in order that it might go ahead and work with adequate support. However, this action of the Council holds only until after there has been opportunity for the friends of the club to submit a constitutional amendment. If this measure is one worthy of adoption, it is time for its supporters to begin action in its favor.

Those who wish to regulate the awarding of Varsity letters, should begin to work out a satisfactory system. In years past everything has been put off until the last minute, and there has been no organized attempt to supply an adequate remedy. As a matter of fact, our constitution has become antiquated. Conditions at the University have changed, making regulations once beneficial, a hindrance and a disadvantage. The instrument has been amended until it is next to impossible to determine authentically the law upon a given point. A great deal of it seems a hopeless jumble.

It is time for some public spirited student, or perhaps better still, a group of students, to get together and revise the constitution completely. This could then be brought before the A. S. U. O., revised still further, if need be, and adopted. Let some of Oregon's budding statesmen take this matter in hand. It is an opportunity to gain invaluable experience and to do a lasting service for the University.

It is high time that we turn our attention to the constitution.

UNSIGNED COMMUNICATIONS

Elsewhere on this page are two unsigned letters to the editor. Of course, it is always desirable that the author be known. But the Emerald realizes that not a few students who have ideas and suggestions, well worth public consideration, have reasonable motives for desiring to withhold their names from publication. In such cases the name of the writer will be kept confidential.

The Kappa Kappa Gamma reception Sunday afternoon, was attended by many University students and friends. Refreshments were served during the afternoon. The receiving line included Miss Carin Degermark, president of the local chapter, Miss Eva Powell, grand president, Mrs. Cuyler, house mother, Mrs. Eric W. Allen, and a number of the alumni and visitors.

Try the Cressey Book Store, at 537 Willamette street.

Announcements

Illustrated Lecture—By Professor F. S. Dunn on "Pallas Athena," Tuesday, 4:00 p. m., in Professor Sweetser's room, Deady Hall.

Smith-Robbin Meetings—Hear the "Great Speaker to Men" in Villard Hall Tuesday evening, January 14, at 7 o'clock sharp. International Association Quartette will sing. Basketball game postponed until 8:30 for address. Admission free.

Basketball—Game Monday evening with Idaho will commence at 8 o'clock. Game Tuesday evening will commence at 8:30 o'clock, to accommodate the Smith-Robbin meeting.

Dance—Second Student Body informal Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock, Men's Gymnasium. Season tickets admit.

Y. M. C. A.—H. W. Stone, Secretary of the Portland Y. M. C. A., will address the regular Thursday evening Y. M. C. A. meeting in Villard Hall.

Assembly—Hon. William Hanley, of Burns, Oregon, will address the regular Student Assembly tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, on the subject of irrigation.

Glee Club Concert—Glee Club concert at the Eugene Theatre, Friday evening, January 17.

Inter-fraternity Basketball—Wednesday afternoon, January 15. Oregon Club and Sigma Chi will play. Thursday evening, Kappa Sigma and the Dormitory will play.

Recital—Miss Winifred Forbes, assisted by Miss Avis Benton, will give a violin recital in Villard Hall tomorrow evening.

Oratorical Try-out—Preliminary try-out to limit the candidates for the Inter-collegiate contest to six, will be held Friday, January 17.

Glee Club—Will practice tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, Villard Hall.

Cabinet meeting—Regular Y. M. C. A. cabinet meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon, at 5 o'clock, in the Book Exchange.

WELL-KNOWN FUSSER IS FACETIOUS OVER NEW RULES

The new rules made by Miss Guppy, Dean of Women of the University of Oregon, to govern the young ladies, have been met with loud acclamations of relief and joy from the male portion of the students as well as a few unmarried members of the Faculty. The scattering pennies over the monthly allowance obtained, sometimes to buy a new book for a lecture course, can now be spent without the vision of a pair of entrancing eyes in a new brand of cigarettes, a can of tobacco, or in the improvement of the manly art of hammering numerous balls around a green table with a stick chalked at one end. There have been rumors of such a place of amusement in connection with the Y. M. C. A. candy store.

Some of the boys also show a growing thirst for dry activities, which for several years past have been entirely overlooked in the more intoxicating whirl of social life.

Altogether the boys are very much pleased with the ruling and hope, for the ultimate good of the University, that it will meet with the hearty approval and co-operation of the young women.

Bob Fariss.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION MEET; ADOPT NEW CONSTITUTION

Mrs. L. H. Potter and the Misses Ida and Harriet Patterson were hostesses of the Alumnae Association of the University of Oregon at the home of Mrs. Potter on Saturday afternoon.

A short business meeting was held and arrangements were made for an entertainment to be given in the spring, for the Junior and Senior college women by the Association. A new constitution was discussed and adopted.

After the business meeting the members enjoyed the usual social hour and refreshments were served. It was not decided, when or where the next meeting would be held.

COMMUNICATIONS

TABOO ON FRAT TALK DEPICTED AS AN EVIL

To the Editor:

In your editorial in the Emerald for January 7, entitled "Big Men at Oregon," you are in part right and in part wrong. The apparent lack of "big" men is not due entirely to the reasons you assigned.

Two things you failed to take into consideration before you drew your conclusion. While in college, we have not the proper perspective from which to set ourselves up as judges of a student's prominence. We are in a too intimate relation and constant contact with each other to judge whether our campus companions are really big or not.

Another cause of this scarcity of men who can hold down several positions with dignity and ease is that the number of University activities has not grown apace with the number of men.

But there is something wrong with the Student Body. There are absolutely no leaders in action or thought, no one to take the initiative in anything. The Emerald has plainly tried to start something several times this college year, but has failed. It has had to hatch movements of its own accord, and then send some cub reporter around, I suppose, to find out what students think about them. But no student, with the single exception of one co-ed, has had a single thing to say on any subject.

Every one is content to sit back and wait for the other fellow. Every man and woman in this institution seems to have crawled into their shell of self satisfaction, and be content to allow it to drift upon the rocks of a "do-nothing" policy, as far as the students are concerned.

And why? Is it because of the single fact that no student has the ability, force, or intellect, to start something? Then we are a weak crowd. Is it because there is no room for improvement? Then we are perfect. Is it because there is no way to make ourselves heard? Then we are gagged. Is it because we have nothing to gain by seeking new conditions? Then our environment must be perfect.

They may partially explain the situation, but the fact is that we are afraid, actually afraid to talk.

And that fear has been engendered by a false fraternal modesty that has caused a fraternity tension and suspense as never existed in the days when students had minds of their own and were not afraid to speak them.

This reluctance of open expression, this suppressed feeling, throttled for the sake of fraternity position and criticism, is hindering the local condition of the University of Oregon more at the present time, than any one element in the institution.

Student.

SIMPLE GOWNS ARE BEST, SAYS OLD GRAD

Eugene, Oregon.

To the Editor:

It is too bad the movement to abolish dress coats and silk toiles had not been started before election, for from actual observation and contact with the voters, I know that a large number voted against the millage bill under the misapprehension that the University was not democratic.

I happened to drive into a crowd discussing it near the Park and at once became an interested listener. The remarks I heard, had they been true, would have been greatly to the discredit of the school.

The men were earnest, had no thought they were doing injustice, but they had no more idea of what goes on at the University than a five-year-old child.

As I was taking considerable interest in the millage bill, I told them I felt sure they were mistaken, that I had spent many pleasant hours in some of the houses, and that they would find a splendid feeling of comradeship, free from any snobbishness, if they investigated. They immediately turned on me, saying it was easy to see I was a college man. I told them, we had no fraternity houses and I only wished we had such comforts. It was no use to argue; they had their minds made up that the University was spoiling the youth of the land.

Now comes Miss Guppy and public-

ly insists on democracy; that was fine. This movement to give the poor boy an equal chance with the rich, is the best of it. There is no need for girls to dress in rich silks. Time for that when their school days are over.

There is nothing so becoming or so suitable, and no dress a girl looks sweeter in than pure white, that can be had for a few cents a yard.

Time and again, when I went out, have I heard it remarked, how much better the girl in plain white looked than one in silks, laces, and diamonds, unsuited to her years. It is all wrong to make little school hops into elaborate functions, and take it from me, if you want the people to close up the University, you can go at it in no more successful way.

Any girl, who has to put on silks and jewels to make herself attractive, can make herself doubly so in a simple gown that will wash, if the jewels consist of a small I. and large U. If she is always considering other's feelings and forgetting her own existence, there will be no need of further attractions, and those attracted will be worth knowing. I have been all down the line from the ball rooms of England's nobility to the ranch dances of the frontier, and I never yet saw silks and jewels outshine a sweet, unselfish girl in a plain white frock.

Don't do it, boys. If you have a dress suit, have some feeling for the fellow who has none. Cut them out, and anything else that will hurt your Alma Mater.

An old college boy.

OREGON SHOULD HAVE A LITERARY MONTHLY

If the Oregon Monthly is dead or, at best, moribund, I wonder if this period of privation might not offer a suitable opportunity to consider, even to formulate, plans for the magazine's successor. That it should have no successor of some kind, seems to augur, all things considered, a condition rather remote from the experience of our present college life. I cannot see, for instance, why a well conducted Monthly should not have a place here which, in its way, would call for as substantial a show of support and good will as a well conducted daily. I may be wrong here—perhaps Monthlies are going the way of orations,—yet I am fairly certain that Monthlies flourish in other institutions no larger than Oregon and as progressive. May not the difficulty of maintaining such a magazine here lie in the nature of the magazine itself—not in its inherent nature, but in the kind of magazine that certain conditions have brought about? I think of one such condition—the way you select your editors.

Is your election of an editor who may or who may not have been—the chances seem about even—a constant contributor to the magazine, conducive to the best writing for it or to loyalty among your best writers? I suspect that human nature is a little against you. My knowledge of college magazines points to the fact that the editors have risen from the body of contributors. The Monthly at Harvard is, I believe, a self perpetuating organization. The new editors are chosen by the old staff, and invariably from those who have offered the most promising contributions. At Yale the Monthly is, or was, published by a senior board. At the end of the junior year, we elected a body of five editors, but only from those who had been contributors. The number of articles accepted and the name of each article were published in the daily before the election took place. Those were eligible to nomination who had gained a certain number of 'points.' I imagine that in other institutions there are other methods of selection, yet I doubt, if any method can account for a good magazine, unless there is some recognition or reward of work done. There seems somehow to be a sort of principle involved here—does there not?

One other matter. I am wondering, too, if Oregon is not about ready to make of her Monthly a literary magazine. Would not that be the most fitting field for a Monthly, the one field not covered by our other publications? Stories, descriptions, essays,—not orations or desperately 'timely' articles! May it not be possible to ignore the booster—say once, only once, a month? I wonder—for the third time.

A good literary Monthly might

start in modestly; it ought at the very outset, if possible, be self supporting. Perhaps a business manager might be chosen outside the staff.

Edward A. Thurber.

H. W. STONE CANCELS THURSDAY DATE WITH Y. M. C. A.

H. W. Stone, Secretary of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association, who was scheduled to speak before the Thursday evening Y. M. C. A. meeting, on the subject, "The World's Leadership," sent word today to the campus Y. M. C. A., that he could not be in Eugene Thursday. As no other arrangements could be made for the meeting, the Smith-Robbins meeting tonight will take the place of the regular meeting Thursday.

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