

OREGON EMERALD

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Saturday, January 18, 1913.

A PERNICIOUS PRACTICE

A prominent journalist from an Eastern state, who has had broad experience in public affairs, who holds degrees from a couple of our best Universities, and who occupies a high position in one of the leading national college fraternities, commented very highly, during his visit at Eugene some time ago, upon the almost perfect fraternity situation here in existence. "The fraternities," he said, "seem to hold their University above everything else. You find them working in perfect harmony with the faculty and administration; willing to stand back of anything which makes for the good of their institution. This is a condition woefully lacking in a great many of our Universities."

We feel that such a comment was well deserved, and are indeed proud that such a situation exists here at the University of Oregon. It is well that our fraternities are broad minded and far sighted enough to see that anything redounding to the good of the Alma Mater means better and stronger fraternities.

However, we should make a dire mistake, if we were to consider conditions ideal and sit calmly back in self-complacency.

There is an important problem facing the fraternities at Oregon at the present time; one which demands positive and careful action. This is the matter of pledging. It has been noted in years past that the practice of pledging High School students results in injury to the pledges themselves, to the fraternities and to the University. No man should be pledged until he is a bone-fide registered student. As the institution grows and conditions become more settled, even more stringent regulations might be adopted.

A High School student has an inflated idea of a college fraternity, and when pledged, is apt to feel that the height of achievement has been attained. He sees no need for strenuous efforts to make good in prep school and even carries this attitude over into his college career. Or perhaps he discovers that through lack of knowledge he has mischosen and in some cases difficulties and hard feelings are the result.

At such occasions as Junior weekend, when a great number of prep students are visiting the University, the fact that some leave wearing pledge buttons, reacts in the minds of the others against fraternities and the University. They feel that there has been a distinction drawn; that they have been tested and found wanting in some respect, and that, if they enter college in the autumn, they will be handicapped.

A custom which permits such an erroneous and harmful idea to prevail for even a moment, should be abolished. It is beneath the dignity of a college fraternity to go down into the High Schools to pledge men. They should demand full standing of a man as a worthy University student before action is taken. Furthermore, early pledging gives opportunity for trouble among the fraternities themselves, which could be eliminated by sane regulation.

Is it not time that the fraternities get together on this matter? Petty

differences should be dropped and some move made toward eradicating this evil. A fraternity governing board has been suggested. Many Universities have a Pan Hellenic organization. However, the means can be worked out easily once the end is determined. It is up to fraternity men to do something in this matter at once and to preserve the general excellent fraternity conditions which now exist.

EMERALD DURING EXAMS.

The next issue of the Emerald will appear Thursday of next week. Saturday of the same week the Y. M. C. A. gets out a special edition. Tuesday and Thursday of the week preceding examination week, the regular numbers will appear. Saturday, February 1, the Journalism department will edit the Sunday Register in lieu of examination, and there will be no Emerald. During examination week issues will probably appear Thursday and Saturday.

This drops one issue a week for the two weeks previous to examinations, but provides for two issue during examination week, when the Emerald has never hitherto been published.

Regular tri-weekly publication will be resumed immediately after examinations.

Announcements

Laurean—Full dress debate at Laurean meeting, Tuesday evening, 7 o'clock, in Deady Hall.

Y. W. C. A.—Meeting Monday afternoon, 4 o'clock, at the Shack.

Freshman class—Meeting Tuesday afternoon, 4 o'clock, in Villard Hall. Important business.

Lecture—Professor F. S. Dunn will give another of his illustrated lectures Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, in Professor Sweetser's room. Subject, "Saints Lawrence and Sebastian."

Basketball—Inter-fraternity semifinals will be resumed Monday afternoon.

Agora Club—Meeting next Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock, will be addressed by Mrs. Mable H. Parsons, on the subject, "A Social Survey of an Oregon City."

Essay subjects—For Chi Omega prize must be in on or before Wednesday, January 22.

German Club—Will meet at the Delta Delta Delta house Tuesday evening, January 21.

Eutaxians—Will meet Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock. Mrs. Pennell will speak.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL MET

Four Open Meetings Planned for Future—Miss Guppy Speaks on Pan-Hellenic.

The Woman's Council met on Friday afternoon in Miss Guppy's office. In the absence of the president and vice president, Miss Guppy took the chair. Carin Degermark chairman of the program committee, reported the program for the rest of the year. There will be four open meetings, the names of the speakers to be arranged later. Mrs. Eric Allen will speak at the first meeting on "The Self-Government of the Women in Wisconsin University."

Miss Guppy spoke at length upon the advantage to University women of trying for the prize offered by the Chi Omega Sorority.

The dean also spoke of the revised rules of Miss Carson, of Pan-Hellenic Rules, and of Self Government. After some other informal discussion the meeting adjourned to meet next on January 31.

"When you find yourself in a close place, cornered and can't get out, construct and you will have something to walk out on."—William Hanley.

"When you meet anything personal that pains to blood, never bleed outward, always bleed inward."—William Hanley.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PAN-HELLENIC ASSOCIATION CORRECTS FALSE IMPRESSION

To the Editor:

The Pan-Hellenic Association wishes to correct the false impression existing as to its position in regard to the new Faculty rules for the women of the University. Through rumors and misleading newspaper articles, the Pan-Hellenic Association has been reported as taking a stand against the new rules and even has been quoted as saying that as an association, it refuses to abide by these rules or even to take any notice of them.

The impression created by these articles is entirely false. Pan-Hellenic took no action whatever on the new rules in the meeting. Moreover, it held no informal meeting in which it decided to let the University enforce its own rules and to obey its own rules exclusively. Pan-Hellenic made its rules in accordance with the University traditions—there were then no definite University rules—and to the entire satisfaction of Miss Guppy and the Faculty.

It has always co-operated with the University in its actions, and always will. Any statement made by the Pan-Hellenic members in regard to these rules, were merely the expression of personal opinions and by no means the expression of Pan-Hellenic's stand on the matter. These rules are not iron clad regulations, but merely Miss Guppy's suggestion, and as such will be regarded by Pan-Hellenic in all of its future actions.

Elizabeth Lewis,
President of Pan-Hellenic.

COLLEGE WOMAN OBJECTS TO UNSIGNED CRITICISMS

To the Editor:

"Every time you see a head, hit it," appears very clearly to be the motto of a good many students at our University. So much so, in fact, that people cannot go peacefully about and give a pleasant dinner without calling down vituperation upon their heads; vituperation, from unknown sources, who spout long and loud about people being afraid, in this University, of giving an opinion,—and then backing it up. Evidently this young Savonarola is absent-minded because he "forgot" to sign his name. But of course he is "strong" for fearlessness in voicing opinion. "Vox populi, vox Dei,"—all right, only don't sign your name to it.

To return to the To-Ko-Lo banquet. Shall we presume to tell anybody how we think they had better spend their evenings? Well, not yet at any rate. Is To-Ko-Lo announcing to the University that a dinner is its only aim? That it is going to confine itself to that sort of enterprise?

Do be moderate in your judgments. Another Student.

Dispenser of friendly advice,
Nellie Hemenway.

FRED HARDESTY REPLIES TO TO-KO-LO CRITICS

To the Editor:

The communication in Thursday's Emerald respecting the formal dinner given by To-Ko-Lo seems to bring up two questions, to-wit, Sophomore secret societies and the giving of a formal dinner by a University organization. As regards the first question, To-Ko-Lo will doubtless appreciate the paternal spirit that fostered the advice the writer gave it, and give it the courtesy of consideration. But I believe that the former correspondent did not go deep enough as regards the second question.

He said, that it was disgusting, that it was a formal affair. I cannot see that it was so when we consider existing conditions at Oregon. We give formal dances and "dell up" for many other occasions; and I imagine that To-Ko-Lo is the best judge as to whether the dinner, which I understand, was to commemorate the foundation of the society, should be formal or informal under present conditions. The author, it seems to me, should have gone farther than a fling at To-Ko-Lo and have gone into the "Why of a Dress Suit at Oregon."

As a general principle the present correspondent is opposed to formal dress at any University function. It tends to create inequality and snobishness in student relationships; and if ever there should be a demonstration of the great principles upon

which our government is founded, it should be in an institution of higher learning. A college should be a great leveller and make every unit stand on its own merit.

Another reason for abolishing formal dress is that a college is intended for an education, and one of the biggest factors in an education is a sense of what is worth while. One of the surest ways of getting this sense of values is getting down to bed rock and "brass tacks" and reducing everything to its true light and level. Formal dress in a college career, it seems to me, does anything but this.

The argument is put forth that we should learn to wear a dress suit while at college. This argument, I think, is entirely without foundation. Any person who will ever have occasion to wear a dress suit, will either have an opportunity to overcome, under more auspicious circumstances the fallaciously alleged embarrassment of a dress suit, or will have intelligence and versatility enough to do so when the occasion may arise.

I ask, had we better not take stock and realize that democracy is something to be desired, and that we are in college for an education? What better beginning can we make than abolishing formal dress at Oregon?
Fred A. Hardesty.

SARCASTIC STUDENT SUGGESTS BATH ROBES

To the Editor:

I was very much interested to note in the Emerald for last Thursday that some very representative student has decided that Oregon "does not" need any more exhibitions of "high brow" social life as was recently "furnished by To-Ko-Lo."

The writer passed the Osburn on the evening of the "high brow" doings, and was much impressed with the aspect of enjoyment that centered around those who had been so ill-fated as to have had to attend. It seemed to me at the time as very appropriate that the students should have gotten as far away from the ordinary hum-drum of college life as they did. I do not know what the qualifications for membership or the purpose of To-Ko-Lo is—but I do know that society is justified in living that can bring as much real enjoyment to a crowd of people as shown on the faces of those present that evening.

The writer of Thursday's article seems to have had some strange antipathy for those who "dell"; so I very humbly suggest to To-Ko-Lo that they make the next party a real mix,—perhaps something classy at the cafeteria, with full dress costumes of dressing sacques and bath robes preferred.

Humbly,
An Unbidd Student.

PROFESSOR ALLEN WRITES FOR OREGON TEACHERS MONTHLY

In a short article in the January number of the Oregon Teachers' Monthly, Professor Allen of the Journalism department, urges that courses in newswriting be taught in the High Schools of the state. He distinguishes newswriting from journalism by saying that it is a less complicated subject and is adaptable to High Schools, and that where it has been introduced in other states, it has aroused keen interest. He explains the difference between methods of teaching English and the newspaper methods taught in the Journalism department, but says that the English helps the other course and gives a broadening influence.

Library Indexes Eugene Register.

Miss Margaret Upleger, reference librarian of the University Library, is compiling a card index of the Eugene Register, beginning with the New Year's number. Each number is indexed as it appears in the morning, with special reference to local and Northwest news.

The Portland Library makes a similar card index of the Oregonian, and Librarian Douglass expects to be able to make an exchange, whereby files of both indexes will be available here and in Portland. These indexes are of great value to students of Northwest history.

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