

OREGON EMERALD

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1914.

BEHIND THE TIMES?

In a statement made since her return from the east, where she has been visiting the Universities and attending the meeting of Deans held at Chicago, Miss Guppy, the Oregon Dean of women, asserts that a great deal of interest is being manifested by the University people with whom she came in contact in regard to the problems encountered by the students and faculty at Oregon. She says further that in most ways these problems are paralleled in the Eastern Universities.

She quotes easterners, however, as being surprised at one lack at Oregon, and it would seem that this, the failure on the part of the fraternities to effect some sort of an organization, has caused the idea that Oregon is behind the times, and that the fraternities are neglecting a form of union which would work for their own betterment and the betterment of the University.

The formation of a Pan-Hellenic has been advocated for some time by the Emerald, and it is encouraging to note that in the older Universities of the country, where the system has had the benefit of a thorough trial, it has not been found wanting. The justification of the system in the East might well be noted by the fraternities here, and advantage taken of the experience of others.

It is inevitable, that in any student body whether or not the fraternity system be present, that there shall be a division into groups. It is natural that these groups as such should have interests which clash with the interests of others. But such a clash of interest is bound to be weakening to the entire mass of students taken in the aggregate, and it is important for the greater good of the majority, that such strife within the student body should be reduced to a minimum.

True, the feeling exhibited between the various organizations on the Oregon campus this year has been much friendlier than in past years, and it is safe to say that there is a growing tendency toward the doing away with such an obstacle to the general progress.

The greatest efficiency attainable by a student body, however, is only to be reached through a realization of the fact that in the main, the ideals which at first seem to clash, are in reality the same but are working at cross purposes. One of the functions of a Pan-Hellenic would be to bring about such a realization.

Oregon, the University, is not isolated from the rest of the colleges in

the United States as has been so commonly the idea in the Northwest. Our progress is keenly watched, and in the particular mentioned, perhaps more than in any other. How long will it be before the advantages enjoyed by the students at other educational institutions are seized upon by the men of Oregon?

GOING TO THE GAME.

Fussing at the coming basketball games will depend largely upon the attitude taken by the University women in regard to the matter of student body tickets. At Washington, where the same system of tickets is in vogue, the women have to attend the games unescorted, simply because they do not co-operate with the men, who might take them if the use of their student tickets were volunteered.

It is foolish for a man to buy a ticket for a woman who already has one. Yet it is not hardly the proper thing for the masculine party to ask a co-ed for her ticket, that is, it is not feasible, because many lack the requisite amount of nerve. But it is a simple matter for University women to turn over their season passes to their escorts for reservation. Will they do it.

MORE TANGO.

Since last Friday, considerable discussion has been aroused by the fact that a new departure has been made in some of the steps used at a varsity dance. Much of the discussion has been favorable, some of the communications have been so personal as to be ineligible for the Emerald columns. The present issue contains one which takes the middle course. The writer, however, evidently disagrees with the opinion expressed by the twenty Deans of State Universities in their recent conference, that the better features of the modern dances should be preserved and taught, and kept by the faculties and students of the Universities.

More on this subject would be superfluous. It only remains to be said that any decent dance should be allowed, while it might also be mentioned that either plain waltz and two-step, the simpler steps or those more complicated, may be performed to the time adapted to Tango, Hesitation and one-step.

SOCIETY.

By Beatrice Lilly.

Miss Guppy will go to Portland on Wednesday to attend the reception given by the "Collegiate Alumnae" and the "Wellesley Club" of Portland in honor of Miss Pendleton, President of Wellesley University. Miss Pendleton is making a tour of the coast cities.

A musical recital was given on Sunday afternoon at the Mu Phi Epsilon house. The program consisted of a number of violin selections by Miss Forbes, accompanied by Mrs. Hope, of Los Angeles, and vocal solos by Mrs. Hope.

John Coshaw, formerly of the University and a member of the Alpha Tau Omega, left for Roseburg Sunday, after a visit here.

Dr. and Mrs. Schmidt and Dr. Timothy Cloran were dinner guests at the Kappa Sigma house on Sunday.

Anson Allen, Charlie Reynolds and Wallace Benson were guests for dinner at the Chi Omega house on Sunday.

Wallace Gaufield has returned from the east where he attended the Phi Gamma Delta convention at Atlantic City.

John Coshaw and Roger Moe were dinner guests at the Sigma Nu house on Saturday evening.

John Black returned on Sunday from attending the Y. M. C. A. convention of Volunteer Students at Kansas City.

Dr. Ellen Pendleton, president of Wellesley College, is visiting in Portland.

A South African athlete has established a record of 8 feet 4 inches in the high jump.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Emerald is the official publication of the student body, and, as such, its columns are open at all times to expressions of student, alumni, or faculty opinions.

IS TANGO UNDEMOCRATIC?

To the Editor:

The tango is a pretty dance. It is doubtless enjoyable and is highly proper as danced by Oregon students. The tango music is alluring. Suppleness, grace and considerable dancing ability is required for all the new steps. The tango, etc., are much more artistic and far more decent than the "rag." Too many variations of the hesitation and tango should be prevented, and a standard form adopted at Oregon. Considerable leisure is required to master the new dances, and they seem certain to become popular among the University students.

Of these things there is little doubt. They are generally admitted.

Then there is no reason why the sororities and fraternities should not enjoy the tango, hesitation, etc., in their own homes. They themselves must be the judges of that. But the moment these new steps are introduced into the general student body dances, formal or informal, at that moment the gulf between the fraternity and non-fraternity students widens. Then the distinction between those who can and those who can not afford the time and money to master the dances is clearly drawn. Then the line of demarcation between the students from Portland—with the social, financial and cultural advantages that that implies—and those from the smaller towns of Oregon is at once clear—and harmful. When the tango, etc., and the dances intended for all University students upon an equal footing, so also enters the caste system in our student body. And when that happens all vestiges of democracy in our body of students—and nowhere is the lack or presence of democracy so evident or absent as at our dances—will disappear.

In fact the recent boost given the tango, etc., by the Emerald and by several students on the campus is, at this time especially, an entirely uncalculated and very inconsistent action. The Emerald and several of the students who took the same attitude as the Emerald are members of a representative committee to adjust student body conditions, to allay friction wherever found, and to unite the students into a common body. Just before the holidays the president of the student body announced in the Emerald that he wanted his committee to return with ideas to promote this work. And then the first thing that the Emerald and these representative students do after the holidays is to agitate for the tango—and so far nothing else.

But why oppose the tango, etc., for general University dances. For several good reasons. According to an editorial statement in the Emerald for December 6 only 50 per cent of the men and women of the University go to the student body dances. But how many will go, when those who do not and never will, probably, dance the tango, etc., know that they will have to look on without part-

ners, or else be "wall flowers." Mighty few, yet the heading of this editorial was "Let Us Get Acquainted."

It is a fact that a large majority of those who attend the general University or class dances are Greek letter people. And yet how many non-Greeks in the University know how to dance the tango, Castle Walk, or the rest of them. Or how many have any convenient or non-expensive way of acquiring these dances. Very few, because tango lessons I am told come high. I know that they take time, and it is very unlikely, unless tango classes are established in the University, that the non-fraternity students will learn them. It is true that in probably every small city in the state the size of Eugene there is some one who gives dancing lessons. That is the case in Eugene, but investigation shows the extent of her or his patronage by University students.

And then the devotees of the new dances are almost invariably from Portland, or have metropolitan connections. Their friends, the class or circle in which they move, are from the city, and a majority of their fraternity brothers or sisters come from there, and hence the craze that has captured Portland has spread in this fraternity atmosphere. Its cosmopolitan origin is nothing in its favor, in fact just the opposite, for this is still a state University, and not a finishing institution, for Portland graduates, primarily or secondarily.

"Standardize the hesitation." Undoubtedly a good thing in itself. But the least move to fasten these dances on to the University will result in the standardization of University groups, not according to merit, but according to dancing ability. It will go a long way towards separating still father the students according to their social ability.

It will create the dancing "400." It will emphasize the aristocratic tendencies just appearing. It will disintegrate every cohering element in our student body fabric at this University. And when it does the University will cease to exist. Respectfully,

—HAROLD YOUNG.

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