

Oregon Emerald

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GIVE IT AIR

No news "story" which the Emerald has published this year has stirred student sentiment as has that which appeared in last Saturday's issue, concerning a discussion in one of the classes of the pros and cons of the cumulative cut system.

As a result of the story, many students have asked the Emerald to continue the discussion in its columns, and we already have half a dozen communications awaiting the magic touch of the typesetter's key. One of these we consider too hot for that functionary to handle, but the rest we shall be pleased to publish at the rate of one per issue, starting with that of last Tuesday.

From all comment which has thus far reached the editorial ear, it is clear that the students are most earnestly opposed to the present rule. "Unfair" and "unwarranted" are the adjectives most often applied to it. Now, students have a keen sense of what is fair and what is unfair, which has been developed by the idealistic code of youth, and which has not yet been blunted by contact with the world. A state of mind such as, it seems, exists in this Student Body at the present time concerning the cut rule is toxic; it reacts disastrously on the feeling of the Student Body toward the faculty.

It is to be hoped that the discussion shall lead to a happy adjustment of the difficulty. Meanwhile, we shall gladly entertain arguments for either side of the question.

We only ask our correspondents to remember that a large number, perhaps a majority, of the faculty, have openly or privately expressed their disapproval of the rule, and that the students' objections have never been presented to the faculty, the Student Council thus far having declined that task.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor:

May I call your attention to the excellence of the course in Advertising which is being offered by the Portland Ad Club for the coming semester. The chance to get such an unusual selection of men to the University for a course of lectures on Advertising will not recur every year, and it certainly ought to be taken advantage of at this time by all who intend to enter business of any kind. The University is certainly deeply indebted to the Portland Ad Club for its generosity and public spirit and for the untiring efforts of its educational committee.

Yours very truly,
ERIC W. ALLEN.

COMMUNICATION

Rule Savors of Kindergartenism, Says "A Junior"

To the Editor:

If there are any rules, actually or ostensibly operative in the University that harp back to the strict pedagogical discipline of high school days, it is the cumulative cut rule inaugurated a little over a year ago.

This rule, in all probability, was created for either of two reasons, or both: to minimize class absenteeism; to raise the scholarship of the University. Even though it accomplishes either of these ends, which it does not, it is an artificial method of discipline which weakens instead of strengthens character, judgment and responsibility. If fear instead of responsibility is used to promote attendance and efficient work, the object of University education is laid aside for mere superficiality. Parents who send their sons and daughters to a University have confidence that some individual judgment will guide their progress. But the University takes away this responsibility by imposing secondary principles for enforcing discipline. What if a student be graduated from a so-called institution of higher education after having been driven to the work? The ideal University, it seems, would sacrifice all book-learning for practical education in self-direction and conscientious responsibility.

But this is neither here nor there. The fact is that the two-fold object of the cut rule is in all probability not realized. It is a moot question whether the cut system cuts down absences from classes materially. Not long after this blue-law was invoked by the powers-that-be, the statement was made that absentees are becoming less frequent. The source of this statement was the number of cuts reported at the administration office. Wonderful is the truth in such statistics—especially when they are vague and inexhaustive! What fraction of the cuts are actually reported? It is a well known fact, probably not to the faculty as a whole, but to the Student Body, that there are members of the faculty who are not in favor of the ruling, and show laxity in reporting cuts.

Were the faculty questioned individually, it is doubtful whether a majority would express any enthusiasm over the system; it is likely that a majority would express decided disfavor. Now does the ruling raise the scholarship of the Student Body? How can it? If the number of unreported cuts were ascertainable, and if they were added to the number of reported cuts, the system would hardly show any appreciation over the old method. And if there is no decrease in the cuts, it is hardly likely that the cut system of itself furnishes any magical impetus for harder grinding. In fact, it does the opposite. Young men and women of the college age abhor, as a rule, any suggestion of being driven in their pursuit of knowledge, and the effect of iron-clad laws and disciplinary requirements is likely as not to dampen their ardor for obeying the taskmaster. Without doubt an attitude of indifference on the part of the professors and instructors as to attendance would bring better results, or why is that the prevailing practice in English and German universities?

Moreover, this ruling has the effect of putting the most deserving of students at a disadvantage: those who work their way through school and those who take part in student activities.

As a rule that reeks of rank kindergartenism and absolutely discourages self-independence, the development of responsibility, individual judgment and independent work, I heartily join the knockers and agitators—if so you wish to think of them—and will do everything in my power to have this rule placed in the waste paper basket, where it belongs, never again to be resurrected.

A JUNIOR.

McGill University, following the example of the English universities, will grant degrees to fourth year men who enlist in the Canadian expeditionary forces before the conclusion of the present college term. Students of the first, second and third year classes will be given credit for a full year's academic work.

Ernest Vosper



WHO'S WHO AT OREGON

ERNEST VOSPER

No. 8.

In Latin, "vos" means "you," and "per" means "through," but in English the two words taken together mean "Vosper," and at Oregon "Vosper" means "Ernie"—Varsity yell leader and campus celebrity. We are inclined to believe that the first syllable of the yell king's name was originally "vox," to correspond with the Latin word for "voice," a coincidence that would be highly appropriate and fitting at this time. But we are restrained from further classical analogies, realizing, as we do, the inadequate supply of the printer's quotation marks.

Everyone knows Ernie Vosper. He is one of the campus' best known jesters. His ability to extract a laugh from even the most sedate audience is undisputed, but he can be "earnest" when the occasion demands. The memory of his work during the football season, particularly at Corvallis, will live long in the hearts of the Oregon rooters. Ernie is a graduate of Jefferson High and a "Fifteener." He is Vice President of the Student Y. M. C. A.

EXTENSION LECTURES

The Extension lectures for this week-end will be as follows:

Thursday evening, January 14, Dr. Conklin at Forest Grove, on "The Hygiene of the Mind"; Mrs. M. H. Parsons, at Astoria, on "Some Approaches to the Study of Literature"; Dr. Hodge at Monroe, on "Standard Home and Standard Community."

Friday, January 15, Dr. Conklin in the morning will talk to the high school students at Forest Grove, and in the evening will speak in Orenco, on "Habit and Happiness"; Professor Reddie will give a reading at the Harrisburg High School at 3:00 o'clock, and in the evening he will give a public reading of "The Blue Bird." Mr. Kilpatrick will lecture at Wilbur on "Physical Conditions of Schools"; Dr. Schafer will speak at Alsea on "Making the Most of Our Bird Life."

Saturday evening, January 16, Dr. Hodge will talk at Philomath on "Making the Most of Our Bird Life"; Professor Reddie, at Bailey Hill School House, will read "Huckleberry Finn"; Dr. Schafer, at Gaston, speaks on "Education as Social Adjustment"; Mr. Kilpatrick is to speak at Garden Valley Grange on "Physical Conditions of Schools"; Professor Sowers, at Staten, will lecture on "Possibilities of Civic Improvement for Rural Communities."

AN ERROR

Through an unintentional error in last Saturday's Emerald, the names of Robert Langley and Ernest McKown were omitted from the list of active members of Pi Sigma Phi, the new pre-medical fraternity.

University Prohibition League will meet in the Y. M. C. A. office tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock.

An innovation in enforcing training rules has been undertaken by the undergraduates of Union in the formation of the Union College Training Council. This council is composed of an upperclassman from each fraternity and three non-fraternity men, whose duty it will be to see that the athletes really train. The council will see that they are in bed at the proper time, do not smoke or drink, and keep up their classroom work.

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