

Oregon Emerald

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IS THE "BEST THOUGHT" ABSTRACT?

Personally, we were interested in the view expressed by one of the speakers during Wednesday morning's nominations, concerning the province of the editorial in the college newspaper. This speaker held that such an editorial should reflect the best thought of the students, and therefore that it should deal with problems "broad and deep as life itself," rather than with the more or less trivial affairs of the campus.

Naturally, we have cogitated the question somewhat ourselves, and also we have examined the undergraduate papers which come to our exchange desk to find in what light the other editors view their responsibilities. We have found that the almost universal practice is to sidestep the problems of the universe and discuss the frothy and evanescent events of every-day college life—the coming athletic contest, the next hop, or the insubordination of the Freshmen.

Once in several whites we have come across such topics as "The Importance of Ideals," "The Intellectual Revolution," and even "Locke's Theory of Education," but we suspect that they were chosen as a last resort when the writer could think of no happier subjects.

We doubt whether this tendency of college editors to remain on terra firma can be entirely ascribed to mental torpor, because all editors proverbially rush in where angels fear to tread. As for us, we would not be averse to parading some of the "highbrow" knowledge we have imbibed during our course—this being probably the nearest to a practical use we shall ever find for it.

But how would our readers react to such a departure? If it be true that no one reads editorials, we surmise that several less than no one would peruse our philosophical and vaporous dissertations. The Emerald is a newspaper, and whatever proviso should be made to the theory that a newspaper should always give its readers what they want, it can hardly be expected to give them what they do not want.

That is why we choose to devote our humble efforts to showing up the cumulative cut system or promoting cleaner student politics, and to leave the decadence of poetry and the causes of the European war to the periodicals and reviews.

Had the University a purely literary publication, it might properly venture into the realms of abstract thought. But the highest obligation of the Emerald, as we see it, is to contend as vigorously and fearlessly as is within its power for that which seems right in issues affecting the students, and to attack just as fearlessly and vigorously that which it believes wrong.

What do you think about it?

Miss Ruth Guppy was a dinner guest at Mary Spiller Hall, Thursday.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor:

For years I have been trying to contribute to the pleasure of canoeing on the mill-race. My property, as that of many other people, lies on both sides of the mill-race, and the opportunity for creating a spot of beauty has always appealed to me. For this reason, I began, ten years ago, planting ornamental trees and shrubs on either side of the mill-race as it flows through my property just above the University.

I expended time, lots of it, labor and money on the effort, and my endeavor has been so rewarded and appreciated by the public that many of my trees and shrubs have been totally destroyed and others so broken and torn as to lose their beauty. They are all small still, after years of growth.

This is because a young man and woman in a canoe seem to find it impossible to permit the public to enjoy what gives pleasure to themselves, but must cut, break and carry away all beautiful growth from the first green leaves on the bushes to great armfuls of the scarlet hawthorne, grown with care and labor, for their own use and ornament.

The attempt to add to the beauty of the mill-race seems almost to be in vain, for young people will persist in such theft.

I have hoped that a knowledge that my beautiful trees were for all to enjoy, might protect them from the vandalism of those who are thoughtless and selfish. Hence this letter.

T. J. WILSON.

For the first time in ten years, the Columbia varsity eight-oared shell crew will not row a new boat this year. Last year's shell is practically new, having been used only a few times.

CAMPUS NOTES

Bernice Ely, ex-'16, was a dinner guest of the Chi Omega house Friday.

Mrs. G. Cronk, Nellie Cronk, Mildred Brown, Myrna Brown and Mrs. Brown were dinner guests at the Chi Omega house Thursday.

Doctor R. Bennett was a dinner guest at the Phi Delta Theta house Thursday.

Phi Delta Theta entertained Howard McCulloch at dinner Friday.

Cecilia Gavin, of The Dalles, is a week-end guest at the Kappa Alpha Theta house.

Alice Bingham, ex-'18, Hazel Erxion and Emmeline Kline, of Salem, are week-end guests at the Kappa Alpha Theta house.

Mrs. W. A. Ferguson, of Portland, has visited during the week at Mary Spiller Hall.

Clarence Finch, of the University of North Dakota, was a luncheon guest at Mary Spiller Hall Tuesday.

Michigan's relay teams which will run at the Drake carnival will be exceptional in the fact that they will be composed entirely of green men, not a single letter man who was placed in the intercollegiate being available this season.



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A WORD TO FRESHMEN

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This advertisement, published in the \$500 Fatima Advertising Contest, is the work of D. T. Carlisle, University of California.

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