

OREGON EMERALD

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At Last The Student Council Meets.

FOR THE first time in about two months, the Student Council will meet next Wednesday. Pardon the reflection, but we are of the opinion that this august and powerful body has been shirking its responsibilities. As was once before stated the members of the council cannot be blamed entirely for this condition of affairs; it is due to a flaw in the organization of the campus; namely overorganization.

The meetings of this governmental body is one of the most important student events on the campus; or, rather it should be. The only reason it is sufficiently important is because it does not meet as often as it should, it does not deal with its problems in an efficient manner, and there is too much of the "I-don't-care-spirit." Absenteeism characterizes this body; the attendance usually would not constitute a quorum of a debating society; and yet this body attempts to legislate for the entire student body. Its members were elected for a special function in the student body, and chronic absentees are not true to either the University or their constituency.

It is no pleasure to censor a body so urgent and powerful as the student council. Yet the University faces a grave danger of having its most important problems under the control of so lax a legislative body.

The Student Council can be revived from virtual non-existence if it demands the presence of members by stringent means. Yet this is not the logical remedy and does not strike at the cause of the disease which has enervated the whole campus. Optimists may say that the disease is imaginary, but it is a condition generally known among the upperclassmen that over-organization is so dominant on the campus that every legitimate activity suffers because of the existence of certain parasitic organizations that are sucking the life out of the necessary organizations.

It is the urgent duty of the student council, we think, to deal with this evil of over-organization which threatens to undermine the effectiveness of important organizations.

Other urgent matters that eventually should receive consideration are:

1. Whether or not to award the yell-leader a sweater and letter.
2. Details as to the establishment of the cooperative store as a going-concern under the control of the student body.
3. Codifying the rules and regulations governing students in their relation to the state and faculty, together with the revised constitution.
4. Investigating the status of the question of student body tax, recently under consideration.
5. Planning for Junior Week-end.
6. Deciding whether or not to continue the agitation for the complete alteration or abolition of the "cumulative cut rule."
7. Determining the status of athletics.

These are only a few of the problems that face the Student Council. Others are popping up continually. Can the Student Council deal with these problems, vital to the welfare of the student body politic?

The New College Spirit.

NO MATTER under what circumstances, people act differently in groups than they do individually. In the higher groups there is a fusion of thought and action into a composite that may be higher or lower than the average of the individuals making up the group. If lower in mentality and action, the group is usually known as a mob. If higher it is an enlightened social mind.

In a college community there is this manifestation of the group mind among the students, and this has come to be called college spirit.

Some people react with instinctive repulsion at the mention of college spirit, because they associate it with the fictional representation of barbarous rowdiness, dangerous hazing, lawlessness, dissipation and revelry. No doubt there was at one time some basis for this misconception, but college spirit the world over has come to carry with it a nobler significance. True there are times, under abnormal conditions, when a spontaneous outburst from college students will have nothing high or noble about it. But this is not college spirit; it is rather the phenomenon known as mob mind, which is as contagious in a college community as in a city or a theatre. This rare display of mob rule mind is often mistaken for college spirit.

The Atlantic Monthly gives the following definition of college spirit: it sounds too good to be true but any sceptic can verify the definition by visiting any college community:

"Some men mean by college spirit something finer than lawlessness, dissipation, and rowdiness. They mean the loyalty of an institution which makes a student guard its good name by being manly and courteous in conduct at all times and in all places. They mean the sense of responsibility which aids a student in forming habits of temperance and industry. They mean

that eagerness to make a grateful use of his opportunities which leads a student to keep his own body fit, his mind alert and thoughts pure. By college spirit some men mean this and far more: they mean that loyalty to a college which rivets a man to the severest tasks of scholarship, through which he gains intellectual power and enthusiasms, without which no graduate is an entire credit to any college; and finally they mean that vision of an ideal life beyond commencement which shows a man that only through the rigid subordination of transient and trivial pleasures can he hope to become the only great victory a university ever wins—a trained, devoted, and inspired alumnus, working for the welfare of mankind."

CAMPUS NOTES

The Syracuse (New York) Post-Standard of recent date contains the following:

"The largest progressive dinner ever held in this city and probably in the state is being planned by the Syracuse University Alumnae club. It is expected that more than 1000 men and women will be entertained. The dinner will be given to raise money for the women's building fund.

"The plan was suggested by Miss Grace Sawyer of this city, who is passing the winter at Eugene, Oregon, where is situated Oregon University. Students there gave such a dinner this winter and collected a substantial sum. Miss Sawyer is one of the originators of the women's building idea for Syracuse university.

"It is planned to have the dinner soon after the middle of April, when the weather will probably be mild enough to allow of comfortable walking from house to house for the five courses which will be served."

Mr. Burleigh Cash was a Wednesday evening dinner guest of Alpha Tau Omega.

Lucile Shepard, '15, of Portland, has enrolled in the University for a post-graduate course.

Milton Stoddard and Russell Ralston spent the last week-end in Medford.

George Stevenson, '14, and Boyce Fenton, '15, are visiting at the Beta Theta Pi house.

Wednesday evening dinner guests of Kappa Alpha Theta were Kathryn Hartley, Vivien Pallett and Helen Hall.

Week-end guests at the Delta Gamma house were Ida Godfrey and Lurline Brown, of Lebanon, Mrs. Alfred Skeel and daughter Betty of Coburg.

Alpha Phi entertained as Wednesday evening dinner guests, President and Mrs. P. L. Campbell, Miss M. Ruth Guppy and Mrs. Mable Holems Parsons.

Kappa Alpha Theta Sunday evening dinner guests were: Geary Garrett and George Vilan, both of Corvallis, John Beckett and Joe McLeean.

Pi Beta Phi entertained Helen Anderson and Marjorie Stearns at dinner on Thursday.

Delta Gamma held initiation Friday for Grayce Sage, Myrtle Cowan, Caroline Alexander, Helen Brown, Mabel Tilly, Dorothy Dunn, Beatrice Thurston, Dora Francis, and Margaret Welch. A banquet followed at the Hotel Osburn. Covers were laid for the active chapter, and the following guests: Alice Thurston Skeel, Lurline Brown, Lucile Yoran, Anita Taylor, of Nu chapter, Idaho; Marguerite Guthrie Hewitt, Miss Amy Dunn and Mrs. Frederick Dunn.

Dean Ruth Guppy has moved to 258 East Tenth. The telephone number is 369-J.

Dr. Bates has moved to 1420 Emerald. The telephone number is 748-L.

The last issue of the Portland "Spectator" contains an article by Miss Clara Wold, '07, on "Democratization of the University of Oregon."

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Martin entertained Tuesday with a theater party for the Delta Gammas and their guests.

Dr. Bertha Stuart, director of physical education for women at Reed college, will give a series of twelve lectures on "How to Get Well and Keep Well," at the Central Library, Portland. The series begins February 17, and ends May 11.

COMMUNICATED

To The Editor:
They may not have as much spirit and "pep" at the University of Washington as we have here, but one thing is certain: if we do not adopt and follow some such plan as is at present being pursued in that institution, the "Washington Spirit" instead of the "Oregon Spirit" will become the by-word of the north-west colleges. At least, this is the conclusion I came to after spending several days about the northern institution.

Rain, snow and various other forms of inclement weather prevailed throughout the entire time I spent there, but I

received a far better impression of the college than ever before, despite the fact that conditions were far more favorable on a former visit. Before there was apparent a spirit of "let-the-other-fellow-do-it", and a latent listless atmosphere swallowed up every movement in its vast abyss. But today everyone is alive and on the move; nothing is suitable now for Washington students but a larger and greater University.

On Wednesday evening some of the fellows guided me through the slush to the big gymnasium where the semi-weekly yell practice was being held. There the underclassmen gathered—both girls and fellows—and under the leadership of their yell leader rehearsed many of their songs and yells. It certainly instilled the "pep", for everyone was elated at the end of the "fest" and a person with the silver tongue of Robert Ingersoll could never have talked them out of the idea that Washington was the greatest University in the world. That former latent spirit is lethargic no more, everyone is permeated with it, and it is destined to bring home huge harvests in the future.

This yell idea seems impracticable on first thought, but some wise head has worked it out so that absences do not reflect discredit upon the individual but upon the organization of which the absent individual is a member. In the Thursday's edition of the "Daily" the percentage of each organization—for underclassmen present—was printed in a conspicuous place, and the orders seemed to take more pride in the fact that they stood well in the yell practice percentage column than that they stood well in percentage in some interfraternity activity such as basketball. Naturally the various houses try to keep up their ranking, and in this manner a keen competition is secured that assures the success of the practice.

This seems to me to accomplish two distinct and necessary ends. In the first place it makes the position of yell leader one of the desirable positions in student life; it brings to that officer a big responsibility by making it a place from which the minds of the younger students are molded along the same lines as those of their predecessors; the leader realizes that the future spirit depends upon the effort which he puts into his work with the "younger generation," and consequently, being imbued with a reverent love for his Alma Mater he extends himself to the limit to bring that same love into the lives of those who gather about him to hear his words and follow his lead. The second result is, naturally, the spirit that is developed. This needs no qualification.

From Graduate Manager Younger, and several others, incidentally, I heard the story of the return of Gilmore Dobie to the fold he had so recently deserted in his intended search for the "Spirit of the Law." At the student body meeting at which Dobie made his farewell address to the students he was presented with a handsome gold watch, and was given an ovation which lasted over half an hour, so the story goes. Younger stated that Dobie never recovered from the effects of this ovation, and at last had to yield to his feelings, and come back. Every one was wildly excited and pleased beyond expression when the good word of the final signature was received. Everyone seems to like him, though I understand that his methods and indomitable will grow distasteful, and do not appeal to the students sense of justice at times.

A barber confided in me to this extent as he ran his razor over my chin: "Dobie and I have played golf for the last three years, and I have never yet found him to be a sport." I thanked him, and announced that the news was interesting, and I knew several people who concurred with him in this view.

However, one thing is true; Dobie is now showing himself to be a sport, perhaps for the first time—but we must do these things once before we can do them again. He is coming back to Washington to fill a broken contract, and he is coming back in the face of greater odds than he has ever before faced. Some of his games are scheduled on fields where he would never play before, and some are to be played with teams that will undoubtedly be just about as strong as he can wish to tackle. It is to be regretted that he will not face W. S. C. for that would be a battle worth witnessing, but many things can not come to pass as we plan they shall.

A surprise awaited me at the Orpheum. I entered that playhouse, sat down, watched some bum comedy, and then woke to the strains of "One Day a Freshman." My first thought was "Oregon", but my next was that it was very fine to know that you could go into down-town business places realizing that the business men in such a large town as Seattle were supporting you. This must be accountable, in a way, for the developing spirit at Washington.
CHESTER ANDERS FEE.

Game Postponed on Account of Measles.
The basketball game which was scheduled between the University of Colorado and the State Agricultural college of Colorado for the state championship, has been postponed indefinitely because of the havoc wrought in the farmer's lineup by the two diseases, measles and tonsillitis.

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