

OREGON EMERALD

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WHY SENIOR EXAMINATIONS?

Why senior examinations? Reasonable question. From the faculty point of view, and in fact from the point of view of the really serious-minded student, the senior examinations are a useful custom for the maintenance of a prescribed standard of work. This is particularly true of the last semester of the senior year. The same reason is not so emphatic during the other seven semesters of the senior's University life. For from the beginning semester to the eighth he is urged on by the desire to graduate, and that he may get the most good out of his work examinations are an aid to him in keeping his finger tips on all the work he has gone over. No one will deny that examinations cause review, and a refreshing of the memory of the work passed over. It is really doubtful if any method might be found whereby this result could be accomplished without the aid of examinations.

On the other hand the refreshing of the senior's memory the last semester is utterly valueless for its practical value. He has no more semesters to go. When the commencement day comes he is through—through to enter the industrial and professional life and thereupon sift out to his best use the material he has absorbed in his four years in the University. The why of senior examinations is purely then the expedient for making the seniors maintain a prescribed standard of work.

It is unfortunate that examinations have been used as the only means of keeping the seniors "up to snuff." Customs of course have their origin in a beginning. But there is much fault—and fault built upon reason—to be found with the present system (custom is better) of senior examinations.

Let us look for a moment at the result under the present system. Commencement comes a week before the undergraduate examinations. The senior examinations precede commencement. This necessitates two sets of examinations. Three collective parties suffer from this arrangement. First the faculty, secondly the students, and thirdly the registrar, suffer from the congestion of work. But would this even be a valid excuse for

urging the abolition of senior examinations? Hardly, we think. There are more potent reasons.

Under the conditions existing in all colleges and universities the last semester of a senior's year is the most trying and demanding. The senior is under a stress that Heaven alone appreciates how exacting—and the senior himself. No wonder he "sluffs" when he can get the chance. This sums up just one great result—he knows that if he can get by the exams all is O. K., so he passes up all the work he can depending on the final. Finals come and he burns the midnight oil and ere the examinations are over he is as though he had been wrung through a wringer. What kind of condition is this for the commencement events; where he has to do his social duty as the graduate and alumni-to-be, where he must entertain his friends and relatives and must be the debonair gentleman? That is he must if he can. But can he can't! To make commencement week a success; a success for themselves and the University is one great reason the seniors are asking for the abolition of senior examinations. But to the Emerald there is still another big reason, of many reasons.

As we understand the senior plan it is to make the senior examinations optional with the schools and departments of the University. The Emerald would urge the compulsory abolition of senior examinations for the purpose of raising the scholarship standard of the senior during his last semester. To do that the work a senior must do his senior year

must be distributed over the entire semester rather than allowing it to congest the last week or so. Devise and make practical such a system means a most progressive step. And such a step should be taken in this progressive age!

Washington won a clean-cut victory over Oregon in debate last night. Our sister institution to the north should be proud of her Matthew Hill and Wendell Black. They were splendid winners and we doubt not they would have been just as good losers.

BAND MEN—ATTENTION
 All band boys be at Eugene Register office 7:15 Monday evening in uniform and with instruments. Bring music racks and march books. 7:15 sharp.

AFFIRMATIVE LOSES IN DEBATE CONTEST

Washington Negative Gets Unanimous Decision Here at Triangular Meet.

Oregon Men Win From Stanford; Jaureguy and Fleischmann Carry Victory.

Oregon won the annual debate at Stanford last night and lost here to Washington. The successful debaters at Palo Alto were Nicholas Jaureguy and Earl Fleischmann. Mr. Jaureguy captained the Oregon negative and lead the varsity to victory with a plea based on the rights of the American working man. Both Mr. Jaureguy and Mr. Fleischmann have taken part in the coast state contest before.

The Oregon affirmative debaters who spoke last night here in Guild hall against Wendell Black and Matthew Hill, of Washington, were Walter Myers and Lewis Beebe.

The judges here were A. E. Clark, a Portland attorney, Plowden Stott, also a Portland attorney and a member of the legislature, and Dean George H. Alden of Willamette University.

In speaking of the debate last night Coach Prescott said, "Both our boys put up a good fight but we can't expect to win decisions when the other schools are prepared to make such tremendous sacrifices. Mr. Hill of Washington has had eight years experience in debate, and both Mr. Hill and Mr. Black have spent eight hours daily for four months in preparation for this debate. But despite our defeat here I am very optimistic about the future. The establishment of an inter-fraternity league will put debate on a different basis in Oregon. We will be compelled to go into the high schools and encourage high school debaters to attend college; then through the inter-fraternity league the students can see to it that good debating material is not neglected. I repeat, the decision last night was a just decision. Every negative team in the contest was successful. Our negative won at Stanford, Washington's negative won here, and the Stanford negative team won at Washington. The question was too one-sided."

Last night's contest marked the sixth triangular coast state meet between the universities of Washington, Oregon, and Stanford. So far the honors have been even. All three universities have received an equal number of decisions.

The question debated last night was: Resolved, That the method of settling industrial disputes by compulsory investigation, with compulsory acceptance of award, should be applied to all industrial disputes involving one hundred or more persons.

NO EXAMS AT OHIO—MAYBE.
 Ohio University may adopt at the beginning of the next semester, a system of grading pupils from their daily class work, thus abolishing all examinations. One of the provisions, however, is that there shall be no "snap" courses.

Mar. 31

DRESS UP!

Apr. 1

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Song Hits For Next Week
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OREGON MAN FOR DIPLOMAT
 A telegram, recommending William D. Wheelwright of Portland as ambassador to Japan was sent to President Woodrow Wilson Thursday night. The recommendation was signed by 50 members of the faculty, as many as could be reached, and spoke highly of Mr. Wheelwright's character.

BIBLE CLASS TO MEET SUNDAY
 A Bible class and discussion group will be held in the training table room of Friendly hall Sunday evening at 5 o'clock. The meeting will be led by W. M. Case, minister of the Presbyterian church. The first half of the meeting will be Bible study and the second half a discussion on the conflict of biology and religion led by Paul Spangler.