

OREGON EMERALD

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MOSSBOUND

It is true that the rolling stone gathers no moss, but a custom steadfastly maintained is not a rolling stone. In fact, age soon makes it so mossbound that it is a retarding, rather than progressive, influence to society. If the custom of senior examinations the last semester has outgrown its usefulness and is a poignant harm rather than a vital good to the University, then it is high time the old custom went to the bow-wows.

As a matter of fact some kind of a change is necessary under the present-day conditions at commencement time in the University. The Emerald is inclined to think that the abolition of the senior exam custom is the first change that should take place. Times today are not like they were when our daddys and granddaddys graduated. War today is not like what it was when the veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Civil War shouldered the muskets. We cannot defend the ancient custom of senior examinations on the ground that it was good enough for our fathers and therefore is good enough for us.

We have but to look for a moment at what it demanded of the senior just at commencement time alone today to realize what a burden is inflicted. There friends, the senior play, the Oregon pageant, the peace-pipe ceremonials, the alumni banquet, the baccalaureate sermon, the commencement address, the oration night, the marches, the posings and—Heaven

forbid anything else. The University would not think of staging a commencement unless it were a success. But pray let us as how can it be a success when the participants are fagged out from the nightmare of examinations?

Of course if the University would abolish commencement week, and all that, why then the problem would be solved. The Emerald has no doubt about any senior wanting to take the examinations provided there was no commencement to follow. But it is absurd to think of the abolition of commencement. Commencement week is being added to instead of being abolished. That is one reason why there is such a congestion of work for the seniors, faculty, in fact everyone concerned, at the end of the semester.

It is high time the ancient custom of senior examinations went by the boards and some measure adopted for the maintenance of the present prescribed standard of work through the equal distribution of senior work throughout the entire semester

HARSH CRITICISM.

It is displeasing at times to hear of communities of the state being called provincial by people who judge them by University standards. It must be remembered that the social development of communities is not equal. The University is supposed to set a standard, and for students, faculty or anyone else to travel through the state and judge communities harshly because they are not up to the University standard is to be unjust to these communities.

It is also to be remembered that the University student body is made up largely of students who come from these small communities of the state. One year, two years, three years and four years residence develops within these students new ideals they would never have received at home. They are progressing socially so-to-speak. Eventually these same students will go back home and in spite of all the "moss-backs" at home can do there will be an uplift in the community, the result of these younger citizens who have returned to take up the burdens of their parents. This is the so-called infusion of younger blood we hear so much about. So the cycle of Time revolves, each generation contributing its quota.

Communities are like individuals: no two are the same. It is the narrow person indeed who goes into a community and tries to revolutionize it immediately by making it adapt itself to his ideals rather than adapting himself to conditions and gradually making his ideals the standard by moral force of character.

GIRLS' TENNIS CLUB

The cement tennis court is reserved for your use from 1 to 4 daily. Preliminaries for the tournament must be played off by Thursday, April 5.

HISTORY OFF THE BAT

Interpretations of Current Events for the Emerald by John Almaack.

The writer of an explanation of events of current history is unlikely to gain a reputation for consistency or sound judgment; the happenings of the week following his interpretations may cause him to reverse some of his choicest conclusions. Yet if this were the rule, it should not deter him from asking "What is the meaning of the occurrence to which the newspapers are giving their cherished front pages, and glaring display headings" since all form consciously or unconsciously an answer which serves as a guide to future action, belief, or judgment. Though historical interpretation cannot reach a mathematical certainty no matter when made, yet it may be removed from the field of mere speculation, or if entirely and outrageously in error, provoke discussion and thought which may lead to the right answer. At all events a writer for a newspaper may correct the mistakes of one day, the next—though this is a thing he usually scorn to do.

The Russian Republic

On March the sixteenth, the Russian revolution was inaugurated. Twenty-four hours after the outbreak commenced, the old Russia of Nihilism, intrigue, tyranny, oppression, the knout, and the dark prisons of Siberia was relegated to the limbo of the past, and a new era dawned for a long oppressed people. Order succeeded the temporary violence, and in an incredibly short time a republic was proclaimed.

The circumstances and management of the revolt approach the marvelous. The nation was engaged in a foreign war; a relentless enemy pressed on the frontier. Yet the disturbance which marked the change from an autocracy to a democracy hardly assumed the proportions of an ordinary street riot. The time was ripe, the leaders knew what was wanted, the people were in sympathy and conscious of their power. There was none of the dramatic frenzy and fury of the French revolutionists; little of the patriotic fervor which animated the Americans in 1775. The whole program was earnest, simple, and direct, as inevitable apparently as the march of Fate.

There was a long accumulation of causes. The government has ever been particularly harsh and cruel. The Czar, with a lack of foresight unparalleled even in an absolute ruler, could not believe that revolution was imminent. Such privileges of representation as had been given, were given grudgingly, and compensation for them had been taken in other directions. Taxes had been increased, enlistments forced, the reasonable demands of labor disregarded, and political persecutions carried to the climax of cruelty. The ruler was no doubt rightly suspected of connivance with the Germans to arrange a special peace; he was known as the enemy of the people. Fear of German invasion, rumors of intrigue and plot, merciless treatment of a soldier kept the whole country in a ferment. The people were awakening and becoming self-conscious. The Duma, containing self-consciousness, at the opportune moment there was a sudden blaze of fervor for popular government, and in its heat was forged a new nation.

As soon as the Czar had abdicated, and it was evident that order was established, and a strong government instituted, the United States hastened to recognize it, and was soon followed by England and France.

This event is by far the most significant in Russian history. The country is released from a load of tyranny that has burdened it for centuries. An opportunity is at last afforded for utilization of the energies of a great people for their own development. It is a land of wonderful resources; the abolition of restrictive and repressive measures will assure the people a reward for their labors and will furnish a motive for progress lacking in the past. An awakened Russia under the old governmental regime would have been a menace to democracy; an awakened Russia as a republic is a prophecy and a safeguard of its future.

Republics now hold the balance of power, and the position of our country is made more secure. Democracy controls the destinies of the larger portion of the population of the world. With representative government firmly established in all nations (a culmination devoutly to be hoped), the fear of national encroachments will cease, and the menace of another world war will have passed away. Nations of self-governing peoples constitute the best league to ensure peace.

It is more than possible that the Russian example will be followed by at least one member of the coalition of central powers, Hungary. That nation has long been ripe for revolution, and fear of Russian domination alone has preserved its union with Austria. With freedom in Russia, their sole motive for alliance with a cause for which they have no sympathy, will have ended, and the Huns will be amenable to the consideration of terms of peace, or by a revolt, emerge among the free nations and conclude a separate treaty. As it was before, there must have been times when the liberty-

loving and intractable Magayre felt there was but little choice between the devil of German militarism, and the deep sea of Russian tyranny. It begins to appear that the perplexing problems of south-western Europe can be settled more completely and finally by a democracy than by any other means.

The revolution renders more certain the outcome of the world war; it is an added assurance of ultimate German defeat. A ministry formed by the Czar might have been vacillated, temporized, and concluded a dishonorable peace; the leaders of a republic, never. A victorious Germany would constitute the most serious and certain danger to its peace and permanence that could be imagined.

MUSIC FOR ASSEMBLY

Mu Phi Epsilon Will Provide Complete Program.

Charlotte Banfield to Read; Piano, Vocal and Violin Selections Included.

Musical numbers by the members of Mu Phi Epsilon, honorary musical fraternity, will compose the entire program at the regular Wednesday assembly.

The purpose of this program is twofold; namely, to show the students what the fraternity is doing, and to attempt to arouse more interest in music.

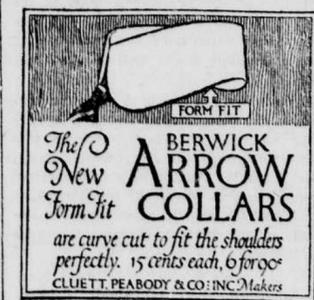
The program will be as follows:

- Allegro from Petit Symphonique..... Lours
- Genevieve Rowley
- Alice Vander Sluis
- A May Morning..... Chaminade
- Gladys Van Nuys
- Arabesque..... Chaminade
- Ada Mathews
- Drifting..... Hazel Radabaugh
- Words by Leslie Blades
- Sung by Mrs. Middleton
- German Dance for two violins.. Mozart
- Viola Crawford
- Miss Forbes
- Reading—The Mustard Plaster Foster
- Charlotte Banfield
- Trio—Spring..... Lynes
- Mrs. Rose Powell
- Mrs. Daise Middleton
- Hester Hurd
- Violin obligato by Ursula Prim
- The Danza..... Chadwick
- Irene Strawbridge
- Etude..... McDowell
- Marion Neil
- Valse Burlesque..... Barleigh
- Meadow Lark... Miss Winifred Forbes

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Roberta Killam.