

### OREGON EMERALD

Official student paper of the University of Oregon, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to the college year by the Associated Students.

Entered in the postoffice at Eugene, Oregon, as second class matter.

Subscription rates \$1.50 per year. By term, \$ .50. Advertising rates upon application.

Edited by  
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**WARREN KAYS**

#### OUR STUDIES



THE decision of the faculty to have the grades of every student in the University printed in different publications at the end of each term is one of the steps which they are taking to raise the scholarship standing of the University.

That we need to raise our scholarship is certain. This fact was driven home very forcibly last spring when Oregon's petition for Phi Beta Kappa was refused for the second time, while a like petition from Whitman college, less than half our size, was accepted.

The thing that must be done is to get every student in the University to realize our low scholarship standing and for them to take immediate steps towards ameliorating the condition. In the students themselves lies the solution of the problem. As long as society and pleasure seeking plays a dominant part in our everyday life our studies will not receive the attention they should. When our minds are taken up each day with thoughts of the week-end's dances and entertainments instead of sharing our time in the realms of books and studies our scholarship will not be bettered. When we have a handful of students out for our debating and oratorical teams and a not much larger group out to hear our intercollegiate debates while the downtown dances are filled to overflowing our chances at Phi Beta Kappa go glimmering.

Right now is a good time for every student to take a mental survey of himself or herself. They should determine whether they are really making the University mean all that it should to them. The essential purpose of every man and woman now enrolled at Oregon should be to study; to take advantage of the means of education which are offered to them; to plan and prepare for their future. This is what we are here for. The attaining of good grades or poor ones is nothing more than an indication of whether we are taking advantage of our time or wasting it. Grades will buy us nothing outside of the honor which comes in some circles. Our own accomplishments, our own betterment, our own education and equipment to meet the world are the real things which we get out of a University education.

We as students of the University of Oregon must realize that we are the favored young men and women of the state. We are the fortunate ones of the country for being able to attend the University. To us is issued a challenge and we must answer it with service. Has this thought struck you? It is not true that we are letting this fact grow dormant in the pursuit of personal enjoyment?

If the underclassmen of the University could but realize these truths now instead of having them come to them forcibly in their upperclass years after they have wasted or fooled away their underclass years, they would leave the University at the end of their four years far better equipped to meet the demands of a stern world.

Someone, either our parents at home or the people of the state at large, are making sacrifices in order that we come to the University. Are we doing the things we should in order that their sacrifices are not made in vain?

Meet the challenge sent you by increasing your efforts for self betterment. If this is done by every one of us it will follow that our scholastic standing will be improved. It is first for our own selves that this should be done, and secondly the standing of our University will be raised twofold. We have shown our ability in the athletic world. Now we must prove that we are well rounded students by raising our scholastic standing higher. With this development will come Phi Beta Kappa, which will be necessary to make us nationally prominent along with our development which will come if we make the millage tax pass next March.

.....  
**BACHELORDON**  
..... announces the pledging of  
..... Virgil Porter, of Mill City, and  
..... Joe Erickson, of Estacada.  
.....

### Here and There

By S. C. E.

Student activities may be put on a point basis. Here's one chance for the fellow who majors in sleep to pat himself on the back.

The most mystifying thing in "A Night of Mystery" was what happened to the audience.

Bill Hayward's new car has the Oregon spirit. It "speaks for itself."

There are but 2½ pairs of boxing gloves in the regular twice-a-week boxing class of 50 students. As this occasions plenty of drilling but no action, it should make a good branch for the R. O. T. C.

Thieves recently broke into the chemistry building at the University of Michigan and carried off \$6000 worth of platinum. We are well protected by the 6% limitation law.

The Emerald recently printed an editorial on the selfishness of girls who sent freshmen over to the gymnasium to secure seats for them. They have nothing on the fellow who gets the only book on reserve and disappears into the crowd for the rest of the evening.

An ingenious method of securing University men to listen to plans for Sunday school classes at the "Y" hut was used not long ago when a card signed by an attorney was sent each man requesting to see him for a few moments at the hut. Some of the boys were really worried for a time.

Athletic games are to be introduced into the R. O. T. C. Here are dreams come true for the drill-weary cadet who has had to rely on his turn for machine gun lectures to escape "squads right."

### Communications

#### PLEA FOR FORENSICS

Mr. Editor: Without professional schools which emphasize the necessity of thorough and continuous speech training, how can Oregon or how can any institution take its place with honor in forensics without a student body back of its representatives? The student body gets back of basketball and baseball and football and track. The names of members of the teams are on the lips of everybody. It is a tremendous honor to make the teams. And what a competition there is among the men for the teams! A man is happy even to make the scrubs. Due to honor and prestige and glory, competition is so stiff that men are mighty well trained by the time they make the varsity. How about it in debate? How about it in oratory? Nobody knows your orator or your debater. Men are not willing to serve an apprenticeship. For a number of years it has been easier and easier for the untrained to make the team. The coach more and more has had to carry members of the team on his shoulders. From time to time we have had excellent material, but there has been absent the compelling force of competition to make the men fight. I venture to say that if the student body will get back of this activity, as it can, and as it ought, that debates will be won with the regularity of old. We have won debates in the past because we have had better cases and better speakers than opponents. I remember contests that have been won, not because we had better speakers, but because we had better cases. We have lost several contests because our men by inexperience have been unable to deliver the knockout when their opponents again and again, with their guards down, have been all but helpless. I am not pessimistic as to the outlook. On the contrary I am rather cheerful. If defeats will wake our student body up, then bring on defeats. You may remember that the British Lion was not aroused to its task in the late war until the goad dug deep into its side by air and submarine and torpedo raids. Oregon also is strong and sound and loyal at heart. All we have to do is to put to use the latent talents of dozens of our students. But they must have a motive.

ROBERT W. PRESCOTT.

#### NEW SOCIETY FORMED BY PHI BETA KAPPA

(Continued from page 1)

sity of Washington chapter. These, with Mrs. Eric W. Allen and Dr. W. D. Smith, both of Wisconsin chapter, make up the executive committee, which will complete the details of organization and pick a name for the new society.

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**THE OWL CLUB**  
..... announces the pledging of  
..... Gene Whitten, of Portland.  
.....

## \$10,000 IN PRIZES TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN NATIONAL POLITICS

### Contest For Best Suggestions For Republican Platform Open to Students

More interest in politics among the younger voters of the country is being fostered by an offering of cash prizes for the best suggestions for the Republican platform in the coming campaign. A letter has been received by President Campbell from Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, calling attention to an offer of \$10,000 to be awarded as prizes for the best three manuscripts received. Truxton Beale, former United States Minister to Persia, is giving the money through the Republican National Committee. The contest is open to any qualified voter, man or woman, under 25 years of age, regardless of party affiliations. The first prize will be \$6000, while \$3000 and \$1000 will be given for second and third prizes.

Mr. Hays in his letter said: "I have repeatedly declared that what we need in this country is not 'less politics,' but more attention to politics. The politics of our country will be immeasurably better if we have the aroused and continuing interest of young people in the practical affairs of the parties. It matters not so much which party they belong to as that they take an active part."

The rules governing the contest follow:

1. The contest is open to all men and women not over 25 years of age. Attach a signed statement with your manuscript that you are a qualified contestant.
2. Submit four typewritten copies of your manuscript. Sign only one. Write on one side of the paper.
3. Manuscript must not exceed over 6000 words.
4. Send all manuscripts to Walker Blaine Beale Contest, Division of Young Voters, Republican National Committee, 932 Woodward Bldg., Washington, D. C.
5. All manuscripts must be in the judges' hands not later than March 31, 1920.
6. Announcement of prize-winners will be made prior to the opening of the Republican National Convention in 1920.

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## Announcement!

I wish to announce that I have bought the interest of my partner, C. A. Burden. We solicit the trade of our many customers and their friends, and make a specialty of giving the students just what they want and when they want it.

Very sincerely,

David M. Graham

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