

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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What the Student Public Wants

The changing attitude on campus affairs, the apparent lack of interest in things that used to stir up student sentiment, as shown by the apparent indifference to traditions, has caused campus leaders to wonder. Considerable writing has been done on the subject, in which there has been some tendency to express a belief that the listless attitude is a condition local to the Oregon campus.

When the editor of the Emerald attended the recent sessions of the Pacific Intercollegiate Press association at Los Angeles, the testimony of other college and university editors convinced him that it is a case of a changing university world rather than merely a "changing Oregon."

The problem has become so general that discussions are beginning to appear in national publications. An editorial in "The Nation" so ably sums up the situation, as it appeared to the Los Angeles conference, that we reprint it as worthy of special attention of students of a Coast institution.

It is entitled "The Languid Generation:"

"The editors and managers of the undergraduate newspapers of a number of Eastern women's colleges sat together in the convention room and discussed their common problems. Intelligence and ability were obvious possessions of all of them. They had also the appearance of being entirely alive, which belongs only to people who have something of meaning and importance to do. They found the task of editing and writing college newspapers a baffling one and the problems that they faced resolved themselves finally into one problem: The students in the colleges were not interested in anything. Surely a discouraging fact to face, one which the editor of the Saturday Evening Post or the New York Evening Journal knows nothing about.

"Should they print reports of lectures which the whole college might have heard and which were attended by a dozen students? Should they bring into the paper news of the outside world, and "try to interest the undergraduates" in matters of public significance? Should they talk about education in general and the curriculum in particular—to several hundred deaf ears? Or should they merely chronicle the interests of the majority; and if so... "But the majority has no interests." The delegates agreed on that.

"They compared notes. One editor thought that if the students at her college could be said to read anything with eagerness it was collections of miscellaneous facts. "They like to know how many pieces of mail-matter come into the college and go out every week; how many bricks it took to build the new dormitory." Another delegate said that brief theater and book notes were read; another that a rather dreary humorous column was the thing the college turned to; another said that the discussion of college fads, such as the use of the swagger-stick, made matter that her public would read. "If the students at C— would get excited about swagger-sticks I'd take it as a hopeful sign," said a cynical young woman in the front row.

"A frail, passing interest in fads, the theater, books, facts, jokes—is this a foundation to build a paper on? The editors seemed hardly to think so. They looked in vain for some breath of hot feeling, some prejudice, some clash of ideas. And all they found was a languid tolerance for any idea. Modern students, it appeared, can not be shocked or won; they are pleasantly aloof from the bitter interests that tear the world. They read, but books are books to them, adjuncts to a serene academic progress—not chronicles of a living reality. The world

is a little misty to them, a little remote, as if they were souls in some Maeterlinckian heaven waiting to be born.

"No one would wish for the students of America the tortures of hunger, the clash of national and racial hatreds, the grinding effort by night and day, summer and winter, to secure enough money to buy learning. These things, characteristic of European universities, make life real enough, in all conscience, and education a thing to prize, but they warp the mind and blunt the sensibilities. Perhaps some compromise is necessary between hunger and complacency. Perhaps the generation that is being born out of our American colleges will have to rub against life a little before it really believes in it. Real interest is an emotion, and emotions spring from the needs of human beings, and so far in this comparatively comfortable land there has been little of Europe's bitter need for interest and intelligence."

Oregon and California orators who take part in the radio debate contest on February 29 will have their first opportunity to really "air" their views.

Campus Bulletin

Notices will be printed in this column for two issues only. Copy must be in this office by 5:30 on the day before it is to be published, and must be limited to 20 words.

Oregon Knights—Meeting, 7:15 tonight.

Second Orchestra—Rehearsal in Villard at 4:30 p. m.

Sigma Epsilon—Meeting at the Anchorage today noon.

Crossroads—Meeting Thursday, 7:30. Woman's building.

Phi Mu Alpha—Luncheon at the Anchorage, Thursday noon.

Spanish Club—Meeting at the Y. W. bungalow at 7:30 tonight.

Ad Club—Important luncheon and business at the Anchorage Thursday noon.

P. E. O. Sons—Enrolled in University, please call Mrs. Thomas Wells at 725 L.

Doughnut Athletics—Important meeting today in Gym at 4. Organizations will send representatives.

Honorary Fraternities—Send in names of members to registrar at once, so that grade averages can be made.

O. N. S. Club—Meeting changed to Thursday night, February 14. Sign up for dinner on library bulletin board.

Emerald Staff—Meeting of all staff members in Editorial hall of the Journalism building, Wednesday, at 5 o'clock.

Senior Men and Women—Living in town please drop a list of their college activities in the box at the library door. For Oregon.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY

Some High Points in Oregon Emerald of February 13, 1923

At a faculty meeting, held yesterday, the semester plan was defeated by a 38 to 31 vote.

Scroll and Script, women's campus honorary organization, has been granted a chapter of Mortar Board. Three ideals are advocated by the national organization; service to the University, scholarship and leadership. Scroll and Script received the first chapter of Mortar Board granted on the Pacific coast.

Uniform divorce laws in the nation will be the topic of debate, when the University of Oregon women's debate team meets the women's team from the University of Washington on March 7.

The installation of Kappa Theta Chi, local fraternity, as the forty-eighth chapter of Phi Kappa Psi will be held this week-end.

Emerald editorial says, "With the constantly increasing number of cars parked on the campus it is probably only a matter of time until some enterprising business man will want to construct a service station and auto camp under the Condon oaks."

A donation of Indian relics to the geology department has been made by W. J. Seaver.

Zeta Kappa Psi, women's national debating society, has initiated Marion Lay, Virginia Pearson, Margaret Morrison, Rosalia Keber, Myrtle Pelker, Mildred Crain, Frances Simpson, Julia Raymond and Winifred Graham.

Dean Dymont is suffering from an attack of la grippe.

NORTHWESTERN STUDENTS HEAR ISRAEL ZANGWILL

Northwestern University—Israel Zangwill, famous English dramatist and playwright, addressed the students and faculty of Northwestern university recently, on matters related to the theater of the present day

Communications

Letters to the EMERALD from students and faculty members are welcomed, but must be signed and worded concisely. If it is desired, the writer's name will be kept out of print. It must be understood that the editor reserves the right to reject communications.

FARRELL REPLIES

(Editor's Note—This communication was received following the condemnation of the recent assembly announcement concerning dime crawls. It was crowded out of a recent issue and is consequently late in appearing.)

To the Editor:
Inasmuch as the "indignant" one with the sentimental complex is undoubtedly a freshman, I shall, in a few words, explain in a kindly and tolerant way the method of procedure in the matter of having an announcement made from the floor in assembly. The nature of the announcement must be divulged to, and permission obtained from, the secretary to the president before the announcement can be made. Which would tend to show that the announcement was not considered such "poor taste."

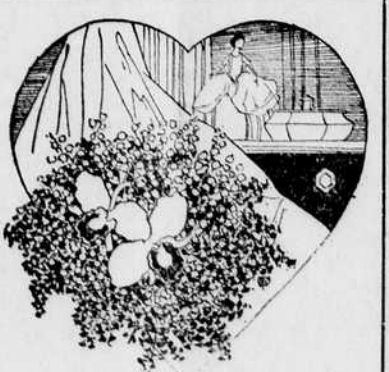
Furthermore, the speaker in no sense attempted to preach a sermon. He set forth the accomplishments of a world figure from an historical point of view. This was an ordinary assembly to the students who really got the full significance of the speaker's words. And by the way, I wonder if the indignant one arose and sang "Mighty Oregon" at the close of the "memorial services."

—DOUGLAS FARRELL.

AGAINST LUXURY

To the Editor:
With the alleged growing use of cars, particularly by certain of the men students, and of fur coats and such "non-essentials" by the women, a growing cry has been raised upon the campus by those who fear that the trammels of the outside world are intruding upon the University and its classic atmosphere.

Say these partisans: "To be free, the University, and not the worldly atmosphere, must absolutely and unconditionally dominate the campus life of its students." This does not mean, of course, that it should divorce itself from the outside life and graduate a band of recluses. Far from it. But there is a certain and undeniable value in having a uniqueness in University life. The very difference of the life on this campus, where it is unique and different from the ordinary seven-



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Coming Events

TODAY

4-6 p. m.—Women's League tea. Woman's building.
6:45-7:30 p. m.—Women's League dime dance.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14
11:00 a. m.—Assembly. Woman's building.

4-6 p. m.—Dean Esterly's tea. 667 E. 12th Street.
7:30 p. m.—Triangular debate, women's teams. Oregon vs. O. A. C. and Willamette. Villard.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15
State Conference of Newspaper Men.

Oregon vs. Idaho, basketball. Moscow, Idaho.

6:30 p. m.—Banquet for editors and publishers. Osburn hotel.
8:00 p. m.—Willamette Men's Glee club concert. Methodist Episcopal church.

8:15 p. m.—Arthur H. Johnson, concert. Guild hall.
9:00 p. m.—Dr. James Gilbert, "The Tax Situation." Radio.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Oregon vs. Idaho, wrestling. Moscow, Idaho.

Continued conference.
12:00 m.—Hendricks hall luncheon for Hendricks. Hendricks hall.

8:15 p. m.—Arthur H. Johnson, concert. Guild hall.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
7:00 p. m.—Open forum meetings. Congregational church.

day-a-week life at home serves to impress the stamp of the University upon young minds.

At home, students of well-to-do parents may have their elaborate parties, their fur-coated, pearl-necklaced, theatre parties; there they may ride in father and mother's limousine or touring car. When they come to the University, a forced abandonment of all these luxuries earned by their parents will place them in a much better frame of mind for the accomplishment of the real purpose of University life. Discipline and forced democracy is of incalculable value to the young and impressionable University students of today.

And to this sentiment, what opposing hue and cry has been raised? None, save this one, "Tyranny of the majority!" We wonder which the campus thinks is valid, the argument or the single-line reply? Or is the campus asleep, lethargic? Sixty-six and two-thirds of Oregon's students are self-supporting. Are these facts mentioned above, simply cheering signs of prosperity, or are they potential evils?

—SENIOR.

SPENCER COLLINS IN CHARGE OF ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Spencer R. Collins, a member of the class of '21, has opened an office in Eugene this month for Whitcomb, Piepenbrink & Company, an accounting firm, who have offices in Portland, Seattle, Chicago, Astoria, Pendleton and Walla Walla. Collins is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and belongs to Alpha Kappa Psi and Beta Alpha Psi, honorary fraternities. He is a certified public accountant.

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