

# Oregon Daily Emerald Editorial Page

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## Selection of Captain John McEwan As Coach Widely Applauded

Universal acclaim has followed the selection of Captain John J. McEwan as head coach for the University. Apparently not a single discordant note has been sounded since the announcement was made, some two weeks ago. Confidence in the ability of the man, his personality, and his prestige has been expressed in fireplace sessions, press comments and general discussion. The Emerald wishes to lend its congratulations to Captain McEwan upon his appointment, and wishes also to commend Virgil Earl, director of athletics; Jack W. Benefiel, graduate manager, and members of the athletic committee of the executive council, upon the wisdom of their choice. Their many weeks of patient labor bore excellent fruits.

## When News Is Not Fit to Print: Presidential Selection

Someone is a champion bean-spiller. If proof be needed read the Monday's Oregonian article where it is narrated how a certain eastern educator was approached concerning a rumor that he had been offered the University of Oregon presidency. It appears that he had been under consideration, but most certainly had not been offered the position. It is impossible to know who talked too much, but certainly someone's tongue was over-active. Not all news is fit to print; and the various "feelers" of boards of regents in selecting a University president come under this category. It is quite possible, of course, that the incident was merely an unfortunate happenstance which was entirely unavoidable.

## Concerning A Recent Phi Beta Kappa Refusal

A short time ago a senior at the University of Kansas, when notified of his election to Phi Beta Kappa, refused the honor, politely and with thanks, giving in a public statement to the press his reasons for so doing. He did so, he said, as a protest against a system that holds high grades as the everlasting goal of the undergraduate, and against an organization that fosters this ideal.

Pleasing professors, getting good grades, and cramming merely to pass an examination is not obtaining an education, he contends, in explaining his action. Uniform high grades are a false criterion of scholarship, and necessitate a waste of energy upon the "husks and forms which are inevitable in courses taught, not to individuals, but to classes of 30, 50, 100 and even 150." To obtain these high grades, he states, requires a measure of "docility and useless industry that is fatal to the independence, initiative and spirit of adventure which are the very life-blood, it seems to me, of the scholar and scientist."

This is rather unusual. It is not often that an honor student refuses Phi Beta Kappa. It is so unusual, in fact, that the papers of the country gave the story a half column or so. We have heard such sentiments as these expressed before, by critics from abroad, and by faculty member and students, though among this last group they usually come from those not in the least danger of being elected for this honor. We suspect that this Kansas senior is for the most part justified.

However, he leaves the wrong impression of Phi Beta Kappa in the minds of the reading public. Its standards of selection are set by the local chapter, and high grades are not necessarily the only consideration. The national organization only stipulates that not more than a certain per cent of each graduating class may be given the key. Character and ability are factors in many chapters, as well as specialized scholarship along certain lines, which is partially what this Kansan is holding out for. It occurs to us that he might have been more instrumental in bringing about his ends had he accepted membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and then set about to bring his reforms into being, working from the inside.—H. A. K.

## A Declaration of Attitude Towards the R. O. T. C.

If we must—we must. Apparently it is desired that the Emerald declare itself on the R. O. T. C., so we hasten to comply.

The Emerald believes that the University of Oregon should abolish compulsory military training, but should retain military instruction for those that wish it. While the Emerald holds the opinion that the underclass courses do not warrant the time and energy expended by freshmen and sophomores, many others do not agree with this opinion. If these persons wish to avail themselves of military instruction, the Emerald can see no reason why they should not go about their business unmolested.

The Emerald is not insensible to the fact that the United States in the past 150 years has averaged approximately one war per generation; and while agitation to avert war is more profound than ever, human nature has not changed much since 1776 or 1914, so it is very possible that wars will come in the future. If freshmen and sophomores and upperclassmen believe they are fulfilling a patriotic duty in training for war, and if they believe the benefits of R. O. T. C. training are desirable—we say, go ahead and drill to their heart's content.

The Emerald objects to the compulsory feature of the R. O. T. C. If a student has enough intelligence to reach the University he should know whether or not he wants to subject himself to the training offered in that department. Many underclassmen believe as does the Emerald, that their time could be better spent elsewhere; so why force the stuff down their throats? And would not the R. O. T. C. benefit by having volunteers instead of draft-men who bring only indifference?

Since this controversy began it has been pointed out by the military advocates that the Oregon R. O. T. C. is practically on a volunteer basis; that insufficient accommodations makes it seem wise to excuse practically all those that wish to be eliminated. Also that the army officers do not relish the task of playing genial host to unwilling guests. If this be the case, we may assume that the R. O. T. C. and the Emerald are partially in accord.

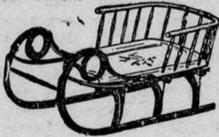
The Emerald suggests that as soon as a new president is firmly established, Oregon students enter a firm plea to the administration to make military training optional in theory as well as practice.

## SEVEN SEERS

### CURRENT VENTS

Hello, Co-eds, and eddies, too! We're glad you're on the dime. We hope the home-town gave you its  
 Idea of a good time.  
 We note more men than girls rolled out,  
 Each year 'tis more this way,  
 The men may have the alibi  
 But proof points t'other way.  
 In basketball our chance was great,  
 But now, it's sure the bunk,  
 With Okie back we held high hopes,  
 But one man had to flunk.  
 Once more we have again with us  
 Peg Spencer and Hez Price,  
 Hez thinks that Mills is rather dead  
 Says Peggy, "They have mice."  
 This term the garb most popular  
 Consists in gay-hued slickers,  
 Together with rain sticks and lids,  
 And very high, wide "kickers."  
 'Tis said this term our fun will come  
 In balls, formal and basket,  
 Don't mix the two when you call up  
 The Sweet Young Thing to ask it.  
 So buckle down and study hard,  
 You've had your Christmas cheer.  
 Forget the past and New Year's  
 Eve,  
 Until it comes next year.

YOU MAY THINK THIS DITTY WITTY, BUT THE MAN WHO WROTE "SNOW-BOUND" WAS WHITTIER.



This self-starting Flexible Flyer is presented with all hopes for a Happy New Year to Blanche Allen, who left all other females in the lurch in her record for staying up late during the holidays, and for her originality in giving all-night parties. Blanche, with a party of friends, set out one chilly afternoon around Xmas to climb Mt. Hood, and only gave up when, amid blinding snow and grinding glaciers, they attained the half-way mark. This was somewhere after mid-night, and they reached camp at six a. m. Pretty good record for a beginner Blanche!

However, will these New Yorkers ever learn when it's time to go to bed, and also that Mt. Hood isn't the thing to climb in December?

FAMOUS SAYINGS FROM HISTORY  
 "They shall not Pass." by Stiffy Barnett.

FORCED TO RETIRE; TROUSERS 1-2 OFF.  
 (Sign on clothing store)

Well if that was the case it was time he retired.

The grouching guy at the next neck having noted that statistics show that something like 96 male students of the University of Oregon rolled the bench this term, says, as he looks at it, there should be a great increase in the industries that supply white jackets for various filling stations and oil companies.

For the benefit of those interested and for the honor of the winners, we publish the names of the winners of the last Limerick contest: first prize, William Frenck; second prize, Gerald Lawler; third prize, Allen Canfield.

Art Gray—"There is a rumor about that my head is being considered as a model for the sculpturing class."  
 Pug Toole—"Don't worry. There's nothing in it."  
 BJORK.

## Communications

To the Editor of the Emerald:  
 As an ex-service man I couldn't help but become somewhat interested in the R. O. T. C. controversy between you and Mr. Powell, just before the close of the last term. Amused, however, with your last reply expressing the desire to shoot him if you were permitted by congress. Allow me, with an apology, to assure you that if you were permitted to do so you wouldn't improve conditions any, for neither he nor you would be in a position to

prove which one of you is right. We shot a large number of Germans during the late World War, but, sad to say, they entered the gates of Hades ignorant as to whether their country was right or wrong. Give up the idea of shooting Mr. Powell. Give him a chance to convince you to his militaristic views.

While he is doing that let us ask him to tell us who is the true patriot. Is it he who cries from the house tops, "My Country Right or Wrong," or is it he who is willing to sacrifice his life if need be to prevent his country going wrong? Is it he who wants to have America fenced off into a garden on this side of the Atlantic, then climb to the top of the Woolworth building and yell with all his might, "My Country Right or Wrong," or is it he who is trying his very best, up and down Broadway, to convince his fellowmen of the idea of universal right or wrong? Tell us if you please, Mr. Powell, if we are ever going to become brave enough to overcome fear? Or are we going to continue killing our fellow men, like our ancestors did, for fear they might kill us? Are we really that hopeless, Mr. Powell? Are we nothing else but mere victims of our heredity?

Why is military training compulsory in 84 colleges and universities throughout the country? Descend from your alabaster throne of patriotism and wisdom, Mr. Powell, and tell us (whom Apollo led to the war theatre with something stouter than mere wooden guns) all about the policy of National Defense, and if there isn't hidden under such a policy the idea that "Might Make Right."

Most sincerely,  
 C. LOUKAS.

Editors of the Oregon Daily Emerald:  
 Permit me to thank you for the generous and fair review by H. A. K. of my Commonwealth article. The arguments which I advanced in those articles are, of course, debatable, but it is gratifying to find their constructive intent recognized; if it is granted that they contain "food for thought," that is all that I ask. My chief criticism of American college students is that they do not seriously realize their own importance, that they take no hand in shaping the academic policies in which, after all, they are vitally concerned. What kind of a president they have, what kind of a faculty they have, what kind of curriculum—whether, for example, it shall include military training, or whether "physical ed" shall be emphasized or minimized—these are surely matters of essential importance to the students. They will have a voice in such matters just as soon as they strenuously demand and insist upon it, no sooner. From various remarks in the Emerald this year I infer that the present board of editors is in sympathy with such an aggressive attitude. If so, it may be sure that it carries with it the potential endorsement of many educators the country over.

May I add my good wishes for the success of the campus magazine campaign—Mr. Klep's committee seems to have gone about it in a very sensible manner—and for that general success of the U. of O. which, I trust you will believe, is still dear to me. One does not forget ten years' association with a body of both students and faculty as generous, cooperative and intelligent as is to be found anywhere in this broad land.

Sincerely,  
 ERNEST BATES

To the Editor of the Emerald.  
 Dear Sir:  
 I infer from my reading of the Emerald that you are afraid to face the R. O. T. C. question squarely. As the editor of a college newspaper you doubtless feel it incumbent upon you to mention the R. O. T. C. merely because it is being discussed by students at colleges such as Ohio State, Wisconsin and the College of the City of New York. You probably read such magazines as "The New Student," "The Nation" and "The New Republic," which report these matters. You started your discussion of the R. O. T. C. just before fall examinations in the hope that everyone might forget this matter in the more urgent and pressing business of getting ready for examinations.

Do you think that you can consider the R. O. T. C. question settled here at Oregon after the perfunctory little discussion in your newspaper? Don't try to hide behind your wooden gun and the Boy Scout movement. We want the light-

publicity upon you and the R. O. T. C. We have a whole term in which to discuss, with the chance to start anew next term. I intend to fight it out on these lines if it takes the rest of the year.

I claim that I am qualified to take part in the discussion. I can produce a certificate showing that I am qualified for a sergeantcy in our next war. Alongside of such characters as Sergeant Quirt I do not, of course, show up extremely well as I have not yet acquired the technical vocabulary.

What is your complaint against the R. O. T. C.? You will find it written in the Book of Small Truths that we have one of the best organizations in the Ninth Corps area. Doubtlessly true, the R. O. T. C. could defend us from land attacks. Possibly the courses ought to be extended to air and sea instructor so that we should be protected from air attacks and enemy naval operations on the Willamette

and McKenzie rivers. It is not clear to me. Perhaps you think the department here ought to be enlarged.

I hope you will enlighten us. There may perhaps be some person in this school who can tell the reason for the R. O. T. C.'s existence. Meaning no disrespect, your efforts to enlighten us have not, so far, been successful. I hope I have given you a cue.

Let us have some discussion.  
 SIMPLICIMUS.



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## A FEW SUGGESTIONS

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 MEMORY BOOKS  
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