

Oregon Daily Emerald Editorial Page

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Much Ado About Nothing;
Extra-Curricula Activities

The popular thing now-a-days is to pity the joiners—the activity men. On every side one hears wails about the Big Men on the campus who have no time to get an education. Here is a sample from the Connecticut Wesleyan 'Cardinal.'

For Heaven's sake give us air! Give us a chance to breathe in this community of ours. . . . We have plenty of intellectual atmosphere. . . . few ever have time to sample a lungful.

Picture follows: the Overworked Senior. At a time when classes are least pressing responsibilities are heaped up: fraternity administration, sports, clubs, societies, presidencies, chairmanships. . . . Picture him settling down to that neglected book—the bell rings, a voice announces a meeting of the Poo Poo Assn., or it is Professor Push drumming up attendance for the Esperanto club. . . . Sobs the senior, "I have everything I could possibly desire, except an education."

Very convincing at first thought; and so familiar that it might have been a voice from our own wilderness. But let us ponder a moment before we pass judgment.

Perhaps those who have the greatest cause to weep and wail for loss of time are the officials of the student body, athletic managers, Emerald executives, and committee chairmen. Practically all of these people belong to one or more honor society, and are perhaps among the most guilty of the joiners. Yet glance at the "scandal sheet." Few and far between are the "F's" and equally scarce are the "V's." While only two or three scale into Phi Beta Kappa heights, for the most part the busiest and most harried students are maintaining consistent, healthy scholastic records.

Now think of those who have recently departed because of scholastic reasons. Are they folk who have been engaged in extra-curricula activities? In most cases—no; they are people who have been in no activity of any sort—not even intellectual. Exceptions, of course, creep in, but in the main an interest in most any phase of University activity will be beneficial to the student.

As for the thousand and one honor organizations which come in for so much abuse—they too have their defense. Most of them promote genuine intellectual activity; and while we are prone to scoff when our vest has become heavily laden, who can forget the thrill of his first honor fraternity election? If the societies be too numerous we should stimulate scholastic interests and the unnecessary societies will die a natural and harmless death.

Mr. Hollis On American Universities

M. C. Hollis of the Oxford debating team which visited us last year has an article in the Outlook for December 30, giving his impressions of our universities, gathered during his tour. He makes pertinent comment and asks questions, many of which have concerned American educators and not a few students for some time past. He voices the cry that is raised periodically on our own campus, and not altogether without cause, that we are over-organized, that we are sacrificing scholarship to mass education, and that individuality is discouraged and oftentimes destroyed by our system of fraternities, of grades, and of athletics. He says, in part:

The ideal, easy ways of Oxford and Cambridge, boasting that the greater part of the benefits that they bestow come from interminable and spontaneous conversations around the fire—these are the things most clearly lacking in the American University. Classes are compulsory. Every breath that the student takes is the university's business, and he must breathe it at an appropriate and scheduled time.

Only in California did Mr. Hollis find any inclination to take life in a more leisurely fashion, perhaps, he remarks, because of the climate.

The reason for all of this he finds in the peculiar American problem of mass education—of dispensing learning whether the student wishes to become learned or no, with a college education for everybody as the goal. But, he maintains, this is only to be done at a price. Learning for learning's sake is sacrificed and a system which does this is a parody.

First, in making such comparisons, Mr. Hollis should choose two of our best universities to place against his Oxford and Cambridge. All he has had to say is not applicable to Harvard, John Hopkins or Yale. When he has done this he should consider that in his own institutions he has a number of so-called "pass men," who, as we understand it, attend more or less for the culture they may absorb by association, rather than for a "love of learning for its own sake."

Next, he should consider that our present system is a growth of but one or two generations—that it is young and untried, and that the real worth of this "education for everybody," can only be known when it has been tried on several generations—when, as in his own country, the university student has behind him a line of university-trained ancestors.

His criticism is largely justified, but it is not altogether new to us. We have heard the same things from many of our own educators, and from not a few fellow-students. The recent Dartmouth investigation and the reports of various educational committees over the country have kept these matters before us. There is every indication that our present system will undergo modifications and changes.

However, it is through organization that the work of the world is being done, and it may not come amiss for us to have a bit of experience in larger organizations than fireside groups before being thrown on the cold, outside world. Much improvement is needed—that we admit; but we rather imagine that the American way of going about it to better matters will not smack of the "idle and easy ways of Oxford and Cambridge." The relative value of the two systems rests with the future. Learning for the sake of learning may be all to scarce. Americans have a tendency to want to actually do something with their learning, if only to make more and better bathtubs.

—H.A.K.

SEVEN SEERS

SO THIS IS THE BASKETBALL PAVILION THAT JACK BUILT!

The campus just now is a quiet as a cross-word puzzle conference. Yesterday a fellow lit a match just behind Villard hall, and the stenog in Carlton Spencer's office in the Ad building dodged.

WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTAL BE PROUD?

Well, for one thing, Captain McEwan arrives tomorrow, and will probably prove to be human after all.

That will result in a cessation of those endless statements from Virgil Earl.

Eddie Miller has decided to let the R. O. T. C. pursue its gun-toting way for a time at least.

Emerald head writers are proving unusually entertaining, and we look forward to a little choice philogymnastics by the sports staff with a possible championship team to work on.

Nobody has said 'Oxford' at us for nearly four days, or assigned any term papers.



Here we have Major Powell, the campus junker, busily engaged in holding his temper, after reading the Emerald. In his right hand he grasps, at parade rest, a blunt Mitchell-type duelist pen. The picture on the wall is that of a Co. D cadet who thinks Miller's a fellow who grinds grain.

Make Your Own Comment, But Use Discretion

WANTED—A girl for roommate. For particulars call at 33 13th in person. Please use front door.—Yesterday Emerald.

And in those days at Oregon it came to pass that one of the Oregon men returning from his wanderings afield during the Yuletide did discover an undue amount of dust on the shelves whereupon he proposed to place the purple socks and the lace bordered handkerchiefs and the quart of old Oakridge de-stabilizer that had accrued to him from the spirit of the seasons. And vainly he sought the Emeralds and the Whiz Banges of a former days, for they had all been used as table spreads by the vacation bachelors. And he looked about him, and said to his fellows, "Why should not the spirit of youth be delivered of this disturbance," and again, "Who's gonna dust them shelves." And there was none to answer him. And the displeased one sought a medium designed to papere shelves. And at length he came to the registrar, saying, "And have I not heard it said that you are writer of note."

And the registrar looked favorably upon him and said, "I perceive that you are a man of discernment. My wife was just saying the other night—"

And the students said to him: "Think you of the tremendous influence your words will wield. And besides, does not everybody know that grades means nothing, and who would there be to read them." And the registrar said, "Yea, verily, brother," and gave him two fine settes of statistics wherewith to paper his shelves until the next year.

We note in yesterday's Emerald that there is a "vast scarcity of track aspirants," comparable, we suppose, to the tremendous paucity of men out.

—ORLANDO Y. BINGH.

Campus Bulletin

Oratory candidates for University tryouts, Tuesday, January 12, must submit copies of their fifteen minute orations to Mr. Gray, 206 Sociology on or before Friday night of this week, January 8. About five minutes of delivery at the tryouts is all that will be called for.

Women's debate—Freshmen girls meet with Mr. Gray, 4:15 p. m. Friday. 206 Sociology.

Bible literature classes—The class in Biblical literature will meet Friday at 3:15 at Westminster House. Open to all. Bruce J. Giffen, instructor.

Meeting of Allied Arts League at 1:15 in art room of Architecture building.

Varsity Philippiensis—Important meeting tonight in "Y" Hut at 8:00.

Senior ball committee notice—Meeting of entire committee today at 5:00 in the Administration building. Important for all to be there.

Graduate club—Meeting for election of officers Tuesday noon, January 12, at College Side Inn. Phone your reservations to College Side Inn.

Women's class basketball practices begin Monday, January 11. Today last day to sign up. Sign at 5:00 in gymnasium.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kappa Delta Phi announces the pledging of Clarence Curtis of Bend, Oregon.

Alpha Phi announces the pledging of Grace Gardner of Portland, Ore.

Theatres

McDONALD—first day: continuous showings 1:00 to 11:30 p. m.; Adolphe Menjou in "The King on Main Street," with Bessie Love and Greta Nissen in one of the cleverest pictures of the new year, with Menjou, debonair lover, in a role that fits him like the clothes he wears, and Bessie does a "Charleston" fit for a king; another Witwer "Pacemaker" comedy; Oregon's own Webfoot Weekly; Frank D. C. Alexander in delightful musical settings to the picture on the organ.

COMING — Corinne Griffith in "Classified;" Ronald Coleman in "The Dark Angel," with Velma Blanky.

REX—first day: continuous, 1:00 to 11:30 p. m.; Ricardo Cortez in "The Spaniard" with Geta Goudal and Noah Beery in a flaming drama of daring adventures and lovers in sunny Spain; Walter Hiers comedy, "Weak but Willing;" International news events; J. Clifton Emmel in melodious musical accompaniments to the picture on the organ.

COMING — Maurice "Lefty" Flynn in "High and Handsome."

HEILIG—Friday and Saturday nights: Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," with an all star cast. Monday, Robert B. Mantell in "Merchant of Venice."

First Track Meet
Of Year Attended By
Over 150 Men

(Continued from page one)

viewed Oregon's track history and made the final demand for more men out.

"The men in '13, and '14 and the other championship teams which Hayward has developed at Oregon went out for track because they wanted to go out and fight," he said. "They had the spirit of fight and they did not go out because they were required to. They wanted to know they could beat someone. Oregon's track teams have to be made from the men in school. The showing this year is up to you, the men who are out for the freshmen and varsity teams."

Work starts Monday and will continue three times a week until the end of the term. Weekly competition will be held every Saturday afternoon in about three weeks in order to work the men into shape for the first meet on the schedule with Stanford at Palo Alto, April eleventh.

Virgil Earl, director of athletics, gave a brief talk and introduced Hayward. Walter Kelsey, varsity hurdler and jumper, and captain of the 1926 team, spoke on the importance of grades for track men.

SENIOR TEACHES ENGLISH

Margaret McCullough, a senior in the English department, has accepted a position on the regular staff of the University high school and began instruction the first of this term. She is handling a class in freshman English.

EDWIN LYMAN IN SCHOOL

Edwin Lyman, a senior in the school of journalism, has returned to the campus to finish his course.

CHARLESTON

at
The Midway
Saturday Night
Music by
The Revelers

Features
8:30 to 11:30

TAKE SPRINGFIELD CAR

DANCE

AT

Laraways Music Hall

HEAR THAT ORCHESTRA

GENTS Only 75c
Ladies Free

EUGENE'S POPULAR DANCE HALL

"Go. Where the Crowds Go"

aah,
Menjou!

McDONALD

ADOLPHE
MENJOU

in

"The King on
Main Street"with BESSIE LOVE
GRETA NISSEN

Menjou, debonair-lover, in a role that fits him like the clothes he wears. And Bessie does a "Charleston" fit for a king.

AND—AT REGULAR PRICES
Matinee 20c Night 35c

And—
Another Witwer
"PACEMAKER"
comedy



"Modern Women Enjoy Too Much Freedom—
They Adore the Man Who Can Make Them Mind"

Says—

"The Spaniard"

WITH

RICARDO CORTEZ
JETTA GOUDAL AND NOAH BEERY

Come and meet the screen's most fascinating lover.

In London ballroom or Spanish bullring, his daring will amaze and startle you.

Screened against a background of lavish settings and society splendor.

WALTER
HIERS
COMEDY

TODAY
continuous
1 to 11:30

J. Clifton Emmel
at the
WUBLITZER



International
NEWS
EVENTS