

# Oregon Daily Emerald

University of Oregon, Eugene

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Unsigned comment in this column is written by the editor. Full responsibility assumed by the editor for all editorial opinion.

**T**HE incredulous are of all men the most credulous; they believe the miracles of Vespaian in order not to believe those of Moses.—Pascal.

## The Devil in Our Colleges

**M**ANKIND'S old fear that knowledge is somehow a tool of the devil crops up in our modern civilization much oftener than we would be inclined to suspect. This is brought forcibly to our attention by the comments called forth by the reports of suicides among college students.

While there have been a few college suicides we have no evidence that they were even to a large extent caused by too much morbid reading and thinking. On the contrary, it appears that the reasons assigned for these self-murders have been diverse. One young man expressed a curiosity about the life hereafter. Another had "experienced all that life had to offer." A third felt that life was "meaningless and futile and death the only escape." In the case of another it was ill health, and in another it was a girl. We might as well build up an argument against co-education on such a basis.

On the other hand we have the suicide of a child of twelve who thought that "death would be a great adventure." It would not appear probable that such a child could be very profoundly influenced by the works of Nietzsche, Schopenhauer and the other philosophers who are said to be causing such a popular fashion.

The Rev. J. M. Jones, psychology instructor at DePauw University, blames it all on "the pagan rot in our colleges." This is interesting, as it expresses a very common point of view. We suppose that he is referring to the nefarious works of Nietzsche and Schopenhauer. As we understand their teaching, however, they nowhere advocated suicide but rather a manful standing up to life and a meeting of it on its own terms.

We would feel more as does the Rev. Thomas C. Darst, who blames these suicides on the restlessness of the world. Professor Thurstone of the University of Chicago lays much of the blame on the public attitude toward mental sufferers. He says: "Mental illness should not be a cause for social stigma. There is a general tendency to hide mental trouble rather than to seek help for it. I am sure that most of the suicides among university students could be prevented if every case of pathological depression were referred to a competent psychiatrist for advice."

The O. A. C. Barometer, apparently aware of the general tendency of fads to spread in our colleges, uttered editorially the other day a heartfelt wish that this particular fad does not spread. We are in accord with our neighbor, but it would seem that this is more than a college fashion. It is common in

the larger world outside of the academic walls. It must be blamed on the great complexity of our lives and on the responsibilities which individuals feel. It is not merely something to be scoffed down and the explanation sought lightly in too much reading of certain literature of which the critic does not approve. The very interest in thinking shows that these problems exist and need solution. They certainly cannot be solved by ignoring them.

As Professor Tufts, of Chicago points out, it does not appear that the students involved in the suicides were students of the philosophies. He says that most students do not take any specific philosophy seriously enough to shape their lives by it.

Sympathetic treatment of individuals in personality difficulties should do a great deal to alleviate these ills. In at least one great eastern institution a department has been established to which students can carry their problems for solution. Such a plan should be considered by all of our institutions of learning.

D. T.

## If These Are The Leaders

**A**FTER examining 420 students to determine whether or not they were "open to suggestion," Charles Bird, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota, found that all but five displayed the sheep-like tendency to "follow the leader." The psychologist concluded that 98 per cent of those examined would blindly and unquestioningly follow suggestions.

Professor Bird is no doubt correct, but isn't he a bit tardy? Our college students, hailed far and wide as the future leaders, have for so long followed like mesmerized, somnambulant cattle that the only new and surprising thing the figures indicate is the existence of even two per cent who don't follow the tinkling bell.

The herd spirit is strong on our campus just at present. The "leaders," who are really eminent inheritors of the ideas of earlier bell-ringers, have decreed that the freshman is the lowest of animals, and therefore should be marked apart from the rest of the herd and disciplined for the high crime of showing individuality. The flock rolls its eyes and silently follows the echo and silently acquiesces.

The bell-ringer decides that the regulations are traditions and therefore sacred, that to obey them is a privilege and an honor, and that to oppose them is a sign of inferior mentality. The flock catches the echo and silently acquiesces.

Some day one of the sheep may start to think, and then there will be trouble. The bell-ringer might suddenly... but we're getting into the realm of fairy tales now. Let's confine ourselves to the probable.

If these are our future leaders in the making, we join a contemporary in the prayer that God in His infinite kindness have mercy upon those who are to be led.

we can't get some light on this proposition.

### A FRESHMAN

**Turning the Tables**

To the Editor:

A Havana stogie can be full of burlap and still get away with it but an article in the Christian Science Monitor tells how students in an eastern school checked up on their profs.

The proposition was this: Instead of the usual method of grading, the students turned the tables at Michigan State Normal and graded their professors according to what they thought they were worth.

The article went on to say that the results of the novel grading, accomplished by secret ballot, were guarded closely although the student council had sanctioned the



**Communications**

For Unified Registration

Dear Editor:

I was very favorably impressed with the solution of the registration problem offered by Mr. Loukas in the columns of the Emerald. The idea is a constructive one and might well be investigated and perhaps explained more fully in the columns of the Emerald.

Should the plan be adopted the advantages are apparent. One day for registration instead of four and better cooperation between faculty and students would naturally be of advantage to the student body and the whole University. Let's see if



**The SEVEN SEERS**

A sign in the Imperial Luncheon window says "WE NEVER SLEEP." Whoops! They evidently have been drinking some of their own coffee.

**I AIN'T A COLLEGE MAN, YOU DUMB THING—THIS IS A SCARF, NOT A NECKTIE.**

He aint done right by Nell, He aint done right by Nell, She called him honey and took his money, And all the kids for alimony, He aint done right by Nell.

Whenever a fraternity man forgets what day it is he can soon figure it out by just thinking over what he had for lunch.

"It isn't that the children will be turned out in the cold," said the widow to the landlord, "but who'll feed the cat when we are gone?"

Summary of a movie:  
Enter hero.  
Enter heroine.  
Villain plots, smiles showing teeth.  
Villain foiled.  
Exit heroine.  
Exit hero.



**I. Mopta Beatell, who has been chosen as janitor of the Fine Arts building. He has been janitor of the proposed new building library ever since it was first proposed and prior to that he was janitor of the men's gym at Vassar. In that capacity he formulated the "Soap Suds" theory which states that without soap there can be no suds. I. Mopta Beatell has also done extensive research work. He collected a sufficient amount of data to prove that women leave more gum under chairs and tables than do the weaker sex. Entirely ignorant of the consequences, he wrote a book on this subject, but a friend finally told him it would mean election to Sigma Xi so publication was stopped just in time.**

Several of our varsity debaters have recently been amusing the library staff and students with shadow pictures upon the frosted glass window of the debate room. If you want to keep your secrets, pull the shades down, Irene.

**TODAY'S SIMILE**  
As independent as a dispensary nurse.

The other day I saw a couple of policemen get out of their car and rush into Villard. It brought back old memories.

**POEM**  
The sun is near set  
And the brick buildings  
Become teeth  
Tearing bloodily at the  
Sky's throat;  
Long, red gleames  
streak across the campus  
Sending subdued  
Light which softens  
All it touches.  
A fan  
Of smoke in  
The long, roseate reverie  
Of the horizon  
Slowly curls apart.  
I steel a peep  
Into your window

test and given the Normal News access to the figures.

Maybe from disillusionment or maybe from increased diffidence to instructors the upperclassmen were harsher in their numerical estimate of the professors than the freshmen and sophomores.

Certain faculty changes were desired by the student council and this was given as the reason for the balloting, which was serious and not a farce.

Some startling revelations of student opinion might be made if the Emerald were to initiate this idea. It runs hand in hand with the article in the last Webfoot, "Words, Words, Words;" more power to them.

**ART SCHOENI**

To the Editor:

Mr. Loukas' registration scheme sounds very good to me. I am certainly in favor of it or any other scheme that will save time. Because time saving means money in every student's pocket. From what I hear, other student bodies with much larger student enrollment have reduced their registration period to about a day and a half by having enrolling officers in one building. Why can't University of Oregon? Yours for Unified Registration,  
B. CIVRAY



**Theaters**

Thursday—Regular Association vaudeville program featuring five musical and comedy numbers. The bill is headlined by the Severly twins and their Jazz Pirates in a melange of song, dance and music. The twins, besides appearing with the Pirates, also do an act by themselves that has been creating a hit wherever given. "The Laugh Barrage" is a timely talk on ticklish subjects by Broad. Holden and Graham will offer a novel turn in shadowgraphy. Joseph M. Bernard and Winifred Axtel will give a skit entitled, "Who Is She?"

Friday and Saturday—"A Regular Scout," featuring Fred Thomson and filled with all the sweep, action and thrills of the West. Silver King, famous movie horse also does some novel turns and feats. Seven troops of Boy Scouts worked in the production which depicts the life of the young American boys. Local members of the Boy Scouts plan a party Saturday evening.

Coming attractions—"Beau Geste," a road show production of the famous motion picture, will open next Monday for a two-day showing. This is a picture of the French foreign legion and is acclaimed one of the big productions of the season. "The Scarlet Letter" comes next week-end.

**COLONIAL:** Today, Friday and Saturday, February 17, 18, 19: Charlie Chaplin in "The Gold Rush." Heartaches become rib ticklers. Hardships breed chuckles as Charlie burlesques all the human ills.

Next week, Monday and Tuesday, May McAvoy in "The Passionate Quest." Also Wednesday and Thursday, "The Lone Wolf Returns."

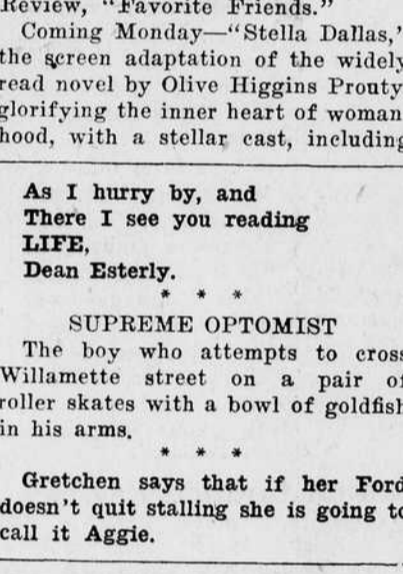
**McDONALD:** First day: "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," a delightful comedy-drama of mirth, music and pathos, combining the hearty laughter of "Cohens and Kellys" and the heart throbs of "Humoresque;" based on the immortal song that has thrilled millions, and with a great cast of favorites, headed by Shirley Mason, Cullen Landis, William Conklin and others; atmospheric prologue, "Roses" featuring Kathleen Powell, Eugene's favorite contralto, in conjunction with Sharkey Moore and the Merry-Macks, tonight at nine; another of those clever comedies of campus life, "The Collegians," with George Lewis; Frank Alexander in marvelous musical setting; Kinetto Movie Review, "Favorite Friends."

Coming Monday—"Stella Dallas," the screen adaptation of the widely read novel by Olive Higgins Prouty, glorifying the inner heart of womanhood, with a stellar cast, including

**As I hurry by, and There I see you reading LIFE, Dean Esterly.**

**SUPREME OPTOMIST**  
The boy who attempts to cross Willamette street on a pair of roller skates with a bowl of goldfish in his arms.

Gretchen says that if her Ford doesn't quit stalling she is going to call it Aggie.



**Week-end Trips to Portland**  
—low roundtrip fares for week-end travel  
**\$5.30**  
there and back  
Go Friday, Saturday or Sunday; return by midnight Tuesday following.  
Trains at 7:35 a. m., 11:10 a. m., 3:20 p. m. Returning 8:35 a. m., 9:30 a. m., 5:00 p. m., 8:15 p. m., 9:00 p. m.  
Special Pullman leaves Eugene 2:20 a. m., ready at 9:30 p. m. and arrives Portland 7 a. m. Returning leaves Portland 1 a. m., ready at 9:30 p. m., and arrives Eugene at 5:30 a. m.  
Save time, money and nervous energy. Travel by train.

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**CAMPUS Bulletin**

Theta Sigma Phi special meeting today, 4:30, at the Shack. All members please attend.

Crossroads: Meeting tonight.

All students interested in attending luncheon for Dr. Bowman today noon at Y hut, please make reservations with Mrs. Donnelly at 1037.

Important meeting of sophomore Oregon Knights in room 1, Johnson

Ronald Colman, Belle Bennett, Alice Joyce, Jean Hersholt, Lois Moran and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

**REX:** Last day: The captivating star, Laura LaPlante in "Butterflies in the Rain," a delightful drama of a saucy young miss, who believed in the double standard, with the sky the limit, and who wanted to lead the carefree life of a social butterfly, with never a thought to the brevity of their joyous existence.—James Kirkwood plays opposite the star; selected comedy and news events; John Clifton Emmel at the organ.

Coming—Zane Grey's unique romance, "The Man of the Forest," with Jack Holt in his most colorful role, supported by Georgia Hale and a great cast of favorite Paramount players.

hall, after meeting of vigilantes committee.

Pi Lambda Theta tea from 4 to 6 today at the home of Mrs. W. H. Maxham, 1608 Alder street. Miss Pellion will speak on French education.

Women's League tea this afternoon from 4 to 6, sun porch of Woman's building.

To-Ko-Lo meeting tonight at 7:30 at the College Side Inn. Upperclass

members urged to attend. Very important.

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**"Rainy Days--"**

are pleasant days since I've learned to know the luxury of a half hour spent in the Anchorage where lights are shaded and the soft pattering of the rain mingles with the swish of the Mill Race. One may have, too, the further luxury of really excellent food."

**The Anchorage**  
On the Old Mill Race

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"IT'S TOASTED"

**LUCKY STRIKES** are smooth and mellow—the finest cigarettes you ever smoked.

They are kind to your throat.

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