

Oregon Emerald

University of Oregon, Eugene

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CAMPUS FORUM

Back Again

Those who read my letter in this column in the Emerald of Saturday will remember that it was followed by a reply from our editor. The reader will remember that editorials have been discontinued because there is a tendency for the editor to dictate public opinion and also because our editor wishes to stimulate the unguided critical thought of the readers. In my letter I intimated that all this is only a dramatic bluff in defense of an easiest way to "get by" as editors. To this the editor offered no argument and did not attempt to answer any of my arguments but rather resorted to the old illogical and time-worn method of "begging the question." We attempted to explain all by saying that the writer was not sufficiently familiar with journalistic problems to criticize. Perhaps the editor would be more willing to accept criticisms of the Morning Oregonian. I quote its editorial of Saturday, February 23, as follows: "The thought outrides that the editors who have many distractions from journalistic work, including their duties, may just be taking the easiest way." I note that earlier in the year edi-

torials were followed by the initials of the associate editors or editors who wrote them. The fact that initials of associate editors appeared so often indicates the great number of editorials which they wrote. A new policy was then adopted whereby identity of the writers was not made public. No initials offered. Now whether those who had previously contributed editorials were unwilling to write without credit we can only speculate. However, the Emerald now "Defies Conventions; No More Editorials." The writer is firmly convinced that editorials are essential to a good student paper and their absence will lower the journalistic standing of the Emerald. This new policy has already provoked unfavorable comment from many of the leading papers of the state. Says the Morning Oregonian: "It is hardly likely that the Emerald's policy will prove popular with the readers. A student newspaper is the voice of undergraduate opinion as well as a chronicle of school news. Publication of contributed letters hardly meets the situation." CLAUDE L. HALL. Note: We did not devote space in the columns of the Emerald to answer Mr. Hall's first letter in full, since so doing would have constituted a breach of the Emerald's present policy of substitution of letters for editorials. We are glad that the writer is so keenly interested in the situation, and if he will call at the Emerald office we

shall be glad to go over the question with him. This applies also to anyone else on the campus who is sufficiently interested. In connection with the present communication, may we ask two questions: "Wouldn't it be more than passing strange if these writers who make their living concocting editorials should favor the stand of the Emerald in abolishing the thing from which they derive their bread and butter?" And: "What letter 'Voice of undergraduate opinion' could there be than the written opinion of the undergraduates themselves?"—Editor.

Also More Emeralds
Why don't they deliver more copies of your estimable paper to the sororities and fraternities? Every morning when I get up and get downstairs a few minutes behind the vanguard there are none left to read. I do not think that I am alone in this complaint as I have heard many other persons saying that their house did not receive enough Emeralds to go around. Everyone pays for and is entitled to one so the matter should be looked into. S. A.

Nicotine Bench Sought
What this school needs worse than a new infirmary, worse than a new library, and worse than a single board of regents is a "nicotine bench" between Oregon and Commerce halls along the curb so that the lawyers and their associates may have some place to sit and talk about briefs and cases and take those very necessary puffs off of cigars. It would be a nice thing for some class that has enough money to endow such a seat of learning and dedicate it to themselves. A. L. S.

Publicity
In glancing over a couple of out of town newspapers I noticed comment in them concerning the Emerald's no-editorial stand. Not being an authority I would hesitate to pass judgment upon the merits of the plan, but at least if it has no other favorable aspects it has resulted in bringing wide attention to the Emerald and in giving Oregon's student paper a good deal of publicity. O. B. D.

Another Plea for a Hall
Concerning the recent plea in the Emerald for a suitable hall for student dances, let me cast another vote in favor of "doing something" and doing it in a hurry. The problem of decorating the Igloo makes dances there almost prohibitive, and the floor at the Woman's building makes dances impossible. N. D. S.

Politics, What?
This morning's Emerald (Feb. 27) contains a communication signed by the managing editor of that august journal correcting a statement appearing in the paper yesterday (Feb. 26). The Emerald said yesterday that the managing editor had announced his candidacy for editor; the managing editor in his communication said that he had not.

Now, what are the peculiar duties of the managing editor? I always thought that he looked over and passed upon the news appearing in the Emerald. If he was on the job why didn't he see the story before it was printed? Perhaps he did and saw a chance to get some publicity, intending to announce his candidacy later. Perhaps the political pot has begun to boil again. What? M. R.

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Alpha Upsilon announces the pledging of Carleton Ulva Collins of Portland, Oregon.

PLEDGING ANNOUNCEMENT
Sigma Phi Epsilon announces the pledging of Norol Evans, of Sprey, Oregon.

PLEDGING ANNOUNCEMENT
Sigma Pi Tau announces the pledging of Allan Bedford of Ontario, Oregon.



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(SIGNED)

W. C. Fields

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