

Oregon Daily Emerald  
University of Oregon, Eugene

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A Bad Public Opinion!

STUDENTS are not the only ones on the American university and college campus that cause the higher-ups—the administration—to take on gray hair. There are the professors.

Within the last month the eyes of the newspaper-reading public have been turned from student indiscretions such as bootlegging in fraternities, smoking in campus buildings, or publishing off-color jokes in magazines and newspapers, to battles between faculty members and the university heads.

Take the University of Pittsburgh. Freedom of speech among the faculty is the question. Recently the university authorities dissolved the Pitt Liberal club for staging a banned Moneys-Billings meeting. Soon came a kick-back from the faculty. They upheld the right to freedom of speech for instructors. The battle is still being carried on on paper.

Take the University of Missouri. The president and the board of curators have been severely censured for disciplining two members of the university's faculty who circulated a psychology questionnaire of a sex nature. The American Association of University Professors declared the administrators acted against the freedom of teaching and research. Defense of the move is made by the board by branding the sex questionnaire as a social impropriety, tending to make students sexually immoral, shocking to women, and capable of producing no facts of scientific value.

Behind both of these moves can be detected the unseen, yet powerful, influence of Public Opinion. Universities depend upon public favor for their enrollment. Parents will not send their sons and daughters to an institution which fosters and permits too free speech or too free research. University presidents fear public disfavor and are forced to quell activities which their better senses tell them are next to harmless, for fear of what the public will say.

Universities also depend upon the public for their existence in a monetary way. Criticism from Tartuffes or Gantry's is mixed with censure from other social corners. They hear it all, and hearing it, straightway it behooves the college president to curb the unfavorable publicity.

Silencing or at least muffling the discordant notes from within the walls of their castle on the hill is the presidents' only recourse. O Public Approval, how many injustices to progress have been committed in thy name!

Prohibition an Injustice

AFTER a ten-year scrutiny of the Volstead act as put into effect by the nation ten years ago this month the question has been raised, "Has it accomplished what its framers intended that it should?"

As a measure to alleviate poverty in the working class, the evidence is that prohibition has helped. As a measure dealing with a moral problem—it has been marked with futility.

While it may have benefitted some classes it has worked an injustice upon the youth of today and has aroused an undesirable disregard of laws among classes who are at heart law-abiding.

The extreme Volstead act has proved a failure. Not only has it been a failure, but it has wrought evils which it cannot undo. Especially is this evil felt among the youth of the country.

Daily we see the finger of shame pointed at college students for their violation of the nation's prohibition law. We who are members of a big university do not propose to defend that accusation by saying there is no violation. We know there is. But we believe it is on the decline. It may be less, but it is more demoralizing in effect.

It is easy for a college student to secure liquor to commemorate some event like the winning of a football game or the completion of examinations. All he has to do is call up a number and ask for a certain party and delivery will be made. Or he can find out from associates where it can be purchased. And the kind of stuff that he gets is not fit to drink. The gin, the moonshine, or the ether-spiked beer are not conducive to good health.

It is the spirit of youth and of braggadocio which causes the student to flaunt the laws. The expense of the Volstead law has been borne heavily by youth. In general it has led to the breakdown of respect for law. In particular the Volstead act has succeeded only in ruining our gastric organisms. It has bred a code of morals in youth which is an antithesis to pre-Volstead days. It has made drinking "smart" because it is illegal, whereas before it lowered one in the social rank.

The Emerald believes in temperance, and it believes that undesirable conditions pointed out above

could be eliminated by a modification of the existing prohibition structure.

It represents the voice of the students and not the official opinion of the University. By modification can be accomplished the more constructive aims which were outlined by champions of the Volstead act. Under the present status, prohibition's greatest effect is felt by the youth of America and there lies its greatest injustice.

In Point of Years . . .

"THE POINT system for student activities was formally adopted at a regular meeting of the faculty Wednesday noon. . . . The new rule applies to all students and outside activities."

In 1920 the Oregon Emerald placed the story containing that paragraph on the front page in its most commanding position.

The faculty itself, no doubt, in its meeting thought that the point system was to be of great benefit to the students, for "the reason given for introducing the system in the University was to prevent any student from monopolizing a number of offices, and to allow as many students as possible to have a chance to obtain executive training through the management of student activities."

Today, ten years later, the point system has not survived at Oregon. Students still monopolize offices—still spend more time on activities than on studies—still confuse the point system with decimals.

Perhaps it would not work satisfactorily, yet other schools swear by it. Perhaps it has rusted away from laxity in observance of its rules, yet the faculty and administration seem active enough in most progressive measures. Perhaps no one wants those ten-year-ago evils remedied; and that is the simplest answer.—R. T.

A Political Plea

THE big bosses of the bi-party political system at Oregon State are stewing around in a vengeful contest; campus politicians at the University of Washington are in the midst of a heated political struggle; and underground whispers indicate that the political pot is about to boil at Oregon. All of this political agitation suggests the thought: has Oregon a satisfactory system of student politics?

In nearly all of the large institutions on the Pacific coast political parties thrive and prosper under the careful tutelage of political bosses. Here at Oregon parties exist but only in a very haphazard manner with no pretense at issues except the personalities of the candidates or one's share in the political pork-barrel. Alliance with a political organization is largely determined by the patronage promised if the candidates are elected. Such a system is pernicious. The aspiring candidates must mortgage their political future to be successful, and their administration will result in a "cold-deck deal."

We do not say all candidates have been elected in this manner. Happily, there have been a few strong-minded individuals who have refused to barter. But with the growth of the University, political parties will be inevitable. We shall either have to resort to a spoils system, or political organizations built with a view to permanence. The Utopia of student politics would be a strong party system which recognizes individuals as political units, not living organizations, and which emphasizes issues of student interest in place of secret political intrigue.—R. M. H.

Minnesota's campus is rocked with a faculty-student war over men smoking in the library and other campus buildings. Maybe the professors could not stand the fumes from the five-centers any longer.

There are only 50 co-eds on the campus at the University of Detroit. They are not allowed to converse with men at any time or place on the campus. Bet they sell plenty of fountain pens in Detroit.

Listening In  
On Lectures

A teacher in German in Canada where I taught asked me not to speak to her in German because she couldn't speak the language; she only taught it.—Dr. K. F. Reinhardt.

I've heard a lot of diverse reactions from the "Listening In" column in the Emerald. I don't mind being quoted; it amuses me.—Charles G. Howard.

I have tasted banana-flavored ice cream, but please don't get it when you treat me.—H. S. Tuttle.

You'll find the earlier type of invention still sold in the isolated places of the world. For instance, the first types of automobiles are still sold in Java and Borneo.—L. S. Cressman.

I think that the power plant is the most pleasing building on the campus—merely because it makes no pretenses. It's just what it is. The chimney would be actually beautiful if it were square. There is dignity in the building, that same quality which marks Villard.—Dr. Rudolph Ernst, in English Drama class.

The Ambler

Yesterday we saw: ANNE STANGE and JEWEL ELLIS hurrying after someone. . . . DR. CASEY trying to write on the board with a cigarette. . . . HAPPY HEITKEMPER looking unhappy about Romantic Poets. . . . HELEN CORNELL looking happy about the weather. . . . ETTA BELLE KITCHEN again. . . . HARVE BENSON looking for a bridge game. . . . A whole booth full of GAMMA PHIS at the College Side. . . . JIMMY LYONS on his way to play tryouts. . . . WILLEM VAN HOOGBRATEN being dynamic.

University Library  
Encourages Thrift

In observation of "National Thrift Week (Jan. 17 to 24), the main library has placed a special shelf of books for students on reserve. The books deal with such problems as: "Personal Expenditures," "Economy," "Waste," and "Methods of Saving Money."

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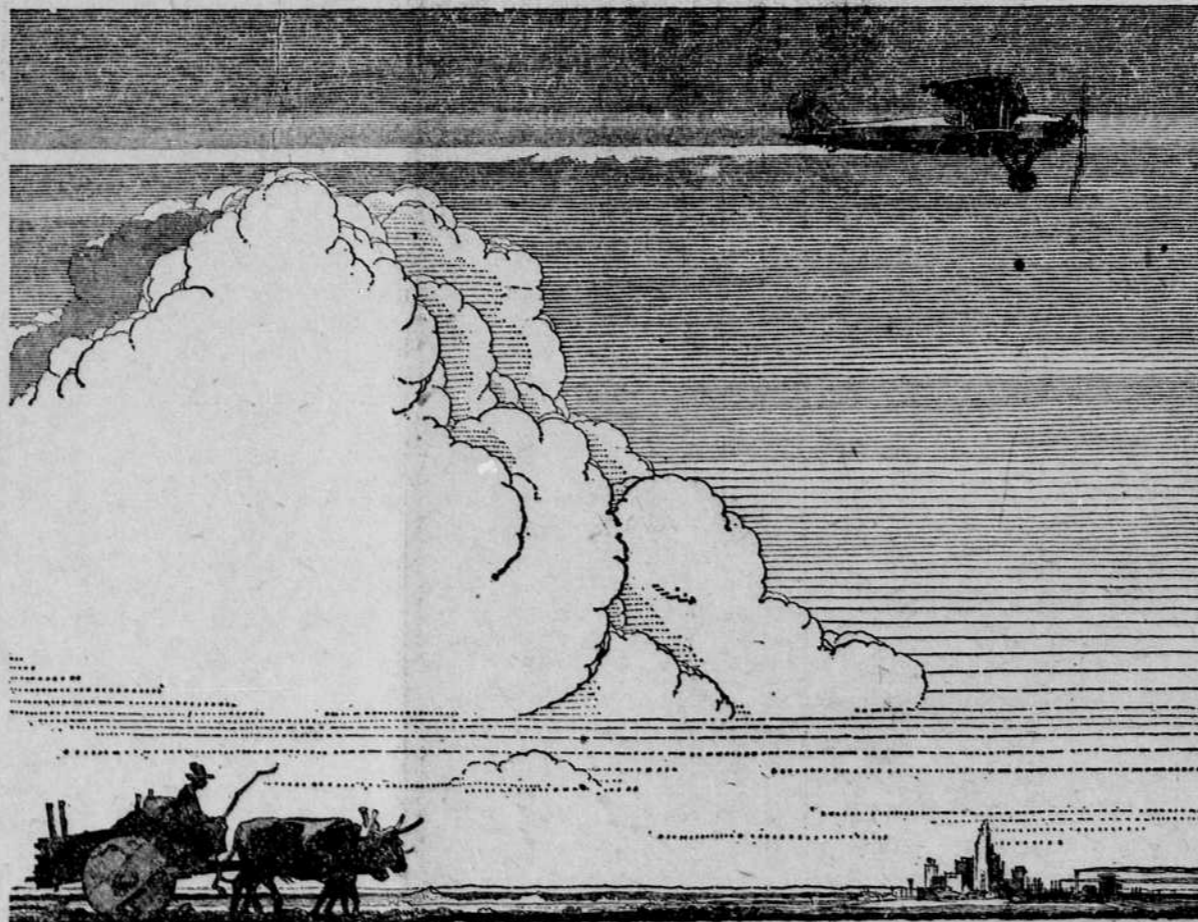
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