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MILITARY TRAINING MADE EASY ONE of the big features of compulsory military training is that it supplies the advanced scholar-warriors with a body of men on which to practice. It is argued, and justly, that optional military might create a sort of Mexican army with more officers than officered.

But the local Sons of Mars are not alone in their difficulty. Even the Nazis have trouble of the same sort in their Reichswehr, in which some 200,000 officers are under training. They too are without sufficient charges to steer about the drill field during great maneuvers.

They get around this by the devilish clever device of having one man march in straight lines and square corners bearing a sign proclaiming "I am a platoon," or "I am a scouting patrol," or "I am a machine-gun nest." These rate gentlemen who comprise the practice army, we imagine, practically have to elbow their way through the throngs of officers. It is presumed that anyone caught snickering at this spectacle is escorted to a concentration camp.

Might we suggest a similar procedure for the R. O. T. C.? Spring parade would find Our Boys lined up on the drill field going through sort of a Greek chorus of commands while half a dozen C. W. A. employees marched and countermarched bearing placards reading: "I am Company C: three guys are out of step, one is at port arms when he should be at present arms, and five of us couldn't find our belts"; and "I am a seventy-five piece military band; TARANTURA! TARANTURA! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!"

PLIGHT OF THE A. S. U. O.—II AS discussion progresses on the plight of the A. S. U. O. it becomes increasingly evident that the state board of higher education will probably wish to maintain student activities at virtually their full strength—there is little doubt that most of them can easily be justified as having "instructional" value. Considering the unpaid debts of the University and college student body, it will probably seek some method of continuing a compulsory fee payment plan, which it approved last term.

Reorganization of the A. S. U. O., then, will undoubtedly take the form of some extension of faculty control over student activities. Upon the amount of faculty control imposed depends the fate of student government.

We are not inclined to stand up and shout for the sacred principles of student self government, for we are well aware that self government at Oregon has long been more a name than a reality. The most important decisions and lines of policies are laid down by the graduate manager, who is hired for just such services. In this light, student government has simply not existed at Oregon.

Nevertheless there are many who would object

to placing control of student affairs entirely in faculty hands. Under the present system the students are well represented in every administrative unit of A. S. U. O. organization, and are in a position to exercise final authority if they care to do so, in any affair of importance. They can even rid themselves of their chief administrative officer, the graduate manager, if they so desire. Rarely have student body elections been used to promote any reforms or change in policy, yet under the present representative form of student government it is quite within the realm of possibility that students might express their will by the election of officers on the basis of a definite platform.

The state board will do well to consider this point in reorganizing the new A. S. U. O. Students have become accustomed to the theory that they are entitled to a strong voice in student affairs—and any change, however salutary in theory, must take into consideration the fact that students will feel they should have a voice in the administration of the extracurricular activities for which they are paying.

Note: The two editorials following are written by candidates for the editorship of the Emerald. Their authorship is indicated by number, and will be revealed to the publications committee before it makes its selection of the new editor.

APRIL FOOL? BY Candidate 1.

PERHAPS it was merely a coincidence that federal authorities set April 1 as the date when all students working under the CWA educational program would find themselves without jobs. On the other hand, it is singular that the historic All Fools' day should be chosen as the time to snatch promised employment from needy students throughout the country only to re-establish that same employment on the following day.

Nearly 200 students, on this campus alone, found themselves with scant hope Sunday when they were informed that no longer could they count on the federal work to aid in meeting the costs of text books, meals, room, and so forth. In many instances they had borrowed the money necessary to pay the initial fee installment and were depending upon the opportunity provided by the CWA program to meet this debt. Many of them could not and would not have returned to school this term without such a promise of aid.

But somewhere along the line a mistake had been made. The relief program was not to be halted as had some other federal projects, and Monday frantic officials kept wires hot informing their subordinates in every corner of the nation to continue with the relief as planned. As a result, 200 University students are again with a means of earning their expenses of higher education. But how do they feel about it?

After the first exhilarating realization that once more they were in a position to continue their education, a new fear assails them. Can they be sure of their reacquired jobs? Can they depend upon an employment so fickle and an employer so capricious that they do not know from one day to the next if they are to be able to meet the innumerable costs of a higher education?

These students are not asking for nor do they expect charity. What they do want is a chance to avail themselves of a college education. A government that would provide an opportunity for such students is to be commended, but in doing so it likewise burdens itself with an obligation—an obligation of sincerity of purpose. Without such sincerity and without a definite plan which can implant faith in those who must needs have faith in it, no organized plan of relief can succeed.

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD SPEAKS, BY Candidate 3.

THE none-too-prosperous Oregon state system of higher education has been given national prominence through the medium of the Nation, whose contributing editor and motivating force, Oswald Garrison Villard, visited the campus last month. He has penned briefly his observations in an article entitled "The Plight of Higher Education" in the current issue of the Nation.

As the son of a father who had saved the University of Oregon in its period of infancy, Oswald Garrison Villard is proud, but he describes himself as filled with dismay at the chaotic situation existing now in the higher educational structure of the state and especially at the University.

He tersely and sympathetically describes the tribulations of certain students in their efforts to obtain an education and points out the utterly inadequate facilities of an institution serving in the capacity of a university.

He indicates the tragic incongruity of a nation which spends money on military training and warships instead of using it for the more beneficial purpose of aiding struggling colleges and universities throughout the country.

He poses this significant query: "Mr. Roosevelt declares that he is freeing industry from innumerable shackles. Why not strike a few from the wrists of university professors?"

Oswald Garrison Villard never writes idle words. That he should have been so impressed by the subnormal conditions of Oregon's higher schools and have told the whole country about his observations is highly significant, for hitherto the matter was primarily for Oregon consumption and thought. He has raised the question to a national level. Perhaps it may lead to some badly needed action.

Optional A.S.U.O. Membership

By DOUG POLIVKA THERE remain many students who are entirely in ignorance as to the significance of the ruling of the attorney general affecting student fees. Numerous queries reaching the Emerald show that some explanation of the affair and its history is in order. At the beginning of winter term, a group of graduate students paid their student body dues under protest. Following this action, a petition was prepared, and a brief setting forth the case of the protesting students was presented to the state board of higher education. The petition to the state board, which asked that the student body fee be declared optional, was not confined to the graduate student body but included the undergraduate fee as well and some undergraduates signed the new petition. In the petition the group contended that many unnecessary expenditures of student funds could be eliminated. The state board of higher education ruled in favor of mandatory payment of student body fees. Leaders of the group which held that the payment of the student body fee of \$5 per term worked a hardship on many students were James T. Landye and Richard L. Neuberger. Others were Josephine Rice, Eugene Laird, and Carl Coad. Opposed to the optional payment plan at the state board meeting were Hugh Rosson, graduate manager, and Tom Tongue. After the board refused to make the payment of fees optional, the opinion of the state attorney-general was requested by Acting Secretary Charles D. Byrne of the state board of higher education. Although the attorney-general submitted his decision to the state board of higher education soon after the board requested it, Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle did not make public the following decision, which was in answer to

specific questions, until Saturday, March 17:

- 1. The state board of higher education has power to levy and collect fees. 2. A designated portion of such fees may be legally allotted to the maintenance of student government and student activities insofar as they are used in the payment of expenses incidental to the courses of instruction. 3. The state board of higher education has no authority to collect money and turn it over to a separate corporation such as the associated students for disbursement. 4. An act of the legislature would be necessary to legalize compulsory payment and the disbursement of such fees. The opinion was requested only for the University of Oregon, but Oregon State college has a similar system of collecting student body fees so both schools were affected similarly by the attorney general's ruling.

Following the ruling of the attorney-general, the Eugene Morning News said editorially March 22:

"As to the probable effect of the attorney general's ruling, there is not nearly so much cause for worry as the official campus gloom would seem to indicate. It is difficult to see why any adult person would want to perpetuate an illegal financial set-up on the campus. In many respects the student petitioners have shown themselves more grown-up than the persons who opposed them. The University will not collapse as a result of optional tax payment. The chances are other coast institutions will turn envious eyes toward Oregon. If the University may offer leadership in such a matter, thousands of students will have cause to thank the handful (Continued on Page Three)

Innocent Bystander BY BARNEY CLARK

THE GREAT TRUNK MYSTERY," OR "THROUGH McARTHUR WITH GUN AND CAMERA," OR "THE CARE AND FEEDING OF PLEDGES," OR "HOW TO STUFF OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS," OR—

As you may have noticed, we are not quite certain what we should call this thing. Maybe we ought to call it off! No, we'll go bravely on. If you can stand it we can.

Anyway, the scene of this little tragedy is laid in McArthur court. The principal characters are Madeline Gilbert, fearless editor of the Oregonian, George Godfrey, movie magnate and chief operative in the insidious University Information Service, and an unidentified man, who is a trunk totter. Ralph Schomp also appears in a brief scene.

The play opens as Gilbert enters, walking on her heels. She locates Godfrey lurking in a corner, brooding over the proposed architectural changes in McArthur court. Going to him, she explains that she is hot on the trail of a cut for the Oregonian, and that she intends to penetrate to the fastnesses of the cut room belowstairs, taking with her only her faithful native guide, Abou Ben Hecht.

Whitefaced, Godfrey exclaims, "What, you would venture into the very lair of the fierce Unclothed Trunkmen?" He makes a face like Charles Laughton.

Undaunted, Gilbert turns to set forth, "Wait," says Godfrey, "I have a plan. I will procure a trunk, in which you can be secreted. Then, with a faithful friend, who will be sworn to secrecy, I will tote you through the hostile tribes. They know us and we shall not be harmed."

No sooner said than done. The trunk was dragged forth; Gilbert climbed in; and the two white men set off through the shower room, bearing the White Man's Burden.

Weeks passed (well, five minutes, if you want to quibble), but at last we see them arrive at their goal. With victory almost in their grasp, they see an ominous figure in their path. It is Chief Schomp, supreme ruler of the Ubangis, and sworn enemy of all white men. In terror they drop the trunk and flee down the trail. Chief Schomp folds his arms with hauteur and stalks up to the trunk. There is a muffled knocking, like Dick Neuberger at a student body meeting. He leans closer. Suddenly, a strangled scream lifts the trunk lid; a voice wailing, "I CAN'T BREATHE!"

The chief jumps a foot; and, overcome by superstitious awe, bee-lines for the brush.

After a time, Godfrey and the trunk-totter steal timorously back, seize the trunk, and trek past the naked tribesmen to civilization. Upon their arrival they throw back the lid and Gilbert emerges, pale but triumphant, clutching to her bosom a tiny bundle—engraving plates!

Once again virtue triumphs, and the old adage is borne out—"The wages of gin is breath."

He'll Talk Turkey

By STANLEY ROBE



The Plight of Higher Education

Note:—The following article is reprinted from the Nation of March 29, 1934. It was written by Oswald Garrison Villard, contributing editor to the Nation, following his recent visit to the University campus.

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD, Portland, Oregon, March 14. I HAVE just spent 24 hours within the precincts of a university with whose activities I have been more or less familiar for so long that I am afraid to say when that acquaintance began. I found it enormously improved since my last visit. New and attractive buildings have added tremendously to the development of a campus whose glorious trees and wonderful lawns are not surpassed, I am sure, by those of any other. But what I heard about the plight of education in this state filled me with dismay. The student body has decreased from about 3,300 to 2,000. Many of the present students are continuing with the greatest difficulty, and there are cases of real undernourishment. I heard of one student whose work improved enormously when it was arranged that he could get one square meal a day, and of another who was trying to live by an expenditure of only \$1.35 a month. It seems to me that as long as there is one such student attending a university its existence is justified.

"But the students are not the only ones who are suffering. The university itself is in straits as a result of the tremendous decrease in its revenues. The instructors and professors look with envy upon teachers in other states who have taken only a 10 per cent cut in their salaries. Some of those here have had to accept a decrease of more than 50 per cent. The library has only the slenderest means, chiefly an endowment fund established by my father some fifty years ago. Some of the most important books can therefore not be purchased. It is hard to see how the university can keep up with the newest developments of knowledge in any field.

"Again, the teachers are appalled by the fact that many Oregon schools were actually closed for the rest of the school year at Christmas time—I mean small, rural public schools. They ask themselves whether, if this continues long, there will be enough students sufficiently trained to take a university course. But while they are suffering, the United States government continues to waste money upon military training, and compulsory drill is still enforced, although the faculty upheld it by only four votes when they voted on it a few weeks ago after a vigorous undergraduate campaign against it—a campaign that ought to have succeeded if only because from the point of view of modern warfare every cent spent upon the old-fashioned drill in our colleges is absolutely wasted. If the government wanted to help where help is needed it would turn these wasted funds over to the underpaid faculty.

"The picture I have presented varies only in degree from what I have seen on other campuses on this trip through the West. It has set me to wondering whether the teachers in our higher educational institutions ought not to come together and demand, in this hour of codes, a code for universities. If

the president thinks it necessary to fix a minimum wage for mine workers and factory workers and laborers in the oil industry, why not a living minimum wage for college professors? Why not establish an ethical code for the conduct of boards of trustees of universities in their relations with both students and teachers? Above all, college teachers in a state like this—yes, in every state—ought now to organize in unions, following the example of editorial writers

and reporters. Is not this hour of revolution the time for them to demand representation upon the boards of trustees, to acquire some voice in how much freedom there shall be upon the university campuses and what shall be taught and not taught? Mr. Roosevelt declares that he is freeing industry from innumerable shackles. Why not strike a few from the wrists of university professors? "I have something further to

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