

Let's Bring Oregon's 'Tenement' Living Conditions Into the Open --- Why Evade the Facts?

BOB
pollock's
folly

Facing the Housing Problem

CRITICIZING the fraternity system, through the suggestion that the council representing the Greek-letter groups has been too long dormant, in the face of evil conditions, gets one about the same result as being caught planting a bomb under the administration building. It occasions lots of comment.

But the nature of that comment indicates the lack of thought, really, which the matter has received.

Objections take several courses. Indignant Greeks inquire, "Do you think the dormitories are any better?" Those who feel the challenge more directly come up with "Our house will hold more than 25 men and the rooms are big, too." And the third group, the "economic necessity group," asks, "Where would you house those 1200 freshmen if you had deferred pledging?" and "What remedy would you suggest?"

Having been caught red-handed in the tossing of this figurative bomb into the structure of the status quo, some effort seems necessary, not as defense but as explanation, to set the angry Greeks aright.

TACKLING the most often advanced questions and arguments in the order of their importance, it should be remembered that 300, not 1200, freshmen pledge houses. A good many of that 300 soon leave school. In proportion, some of the 900 also drop out—and one reason that students from both groups drop out is that the University and its fraternities have failed in their efforts or have made no efforts to adjust these students, either academically or to their environment.

But putting aside this phase of the problem, which is perhaps the most important of all but is rarely considered, it can be seen that deferred pledging would mean the housing of not more than an additional 300 students.

The tenor of the discussion at the recent meeting of the Oregon dads indicates that the dads at least (and they represent an important influence in state affairs) are willing to go to some lengths to improve the poor living conditions which at present exist.

DONE on a three year basis, the preparation of the University to take over the 300 men orphaned by deferred pledging would be one of the primary steps in the institution's recognition of its obligation to students in the problem of housing—a long ignored obligation.

How should it be done? Probably not with dorms—there has been too much dissatisfaction and there are too many shortcomings in the present dormitories—they house 270—to warrant the construction of another such building without first investigating the possibilities.

The most successful system for providing housing has been tried in the east with the so-called "university houses." These are buildings constructed on university-owned land by the university which house about 25 men. In some cases they are used by informal living groups—in other by social fraternities. Under such conditions, the fraternity system, where used, has been successful and applauded. The standard of the houses has a tendency to remain fairly even and university supervision of the maintenance of the houses and grounds have kept that standard high.

The success of this plan elsewhere makes it worthy of Oregon's investigation—not for the University alone but also for the state college and other schools in the system.

AS for the second argument, several fraternity men have forwarded the statement that their tong's lodge was built to hold more than 25 men.

The objectives of the fraternity which make the system worth fighting for, although some would see it move on, unchanging, to atrophy and ultimately be completely discarded—are the oft-mentioned brotherhood, fellowship, and scholarship. The

effort to attain these ideals places a physical limit on the size of the fraternity. There can be little brotherhood in a group which includes 40 to 100 affiliates—and little scholarship, at least within living quarters, when there are more than two men in a room.

SCHOLARSHIP in American institutions of higher education has taken a beating. One big reason that it has is the fact that student environment has been ignored. It seems only proper that every student should have, especially if he's paying \$40 a month for it, a room of his own. Failing this, and if the room is large, light, and airy, he should not have more than one roommate forced upon him.

Even those who protest most vigorously that their fraternity isn't over-crowded cannot say that their members sleep in healthful surroundings.

Not long ago, at the request of the University, a survey was conducted of campus sleeping quarters. Health regulations require that every person have 300 square feet of air space. If those regulations were enforced, every fraternity on the campus would have to double its air space, at least, or halve its membership.

In most houses the member pay \$10 per month for sharing a room and a two-or-three-deck bunk on the sleeping-porch. But the indications of tenement conditions do not stop here. One fraternity figures it pays \$9 for food for each member. That makes \$19. The rest of the more than \$45 house bill goes to plug up various rat-holes; over-taxation, poor buying, inexperienced management, old debts, excessive interest to the two men who have a great many of our houses by the nose, financially.

THE question, "Do you think the dorms are any better?" has already been partially answered in the consideration of "university houses."

As far as room goes, they are an improvement. For \$33 per month, however, the student isn't getting his money's worth, especially from the standpoint of food served, in the dorms.

But the male dorm dweller does have a semblance of privacy in his room, which he shares with one other student. The beds are slightly better than those found in most fraternities, for house beds are usually double or triple deck bunks of the sort usually obtainable in a two-bit flop house.

Women's dorms are crowded to the physical limit—and beyond the limit of decency. They are on a par with the sororities, which if anything are worse than the fraternities when it comes to massed humanity in small rooms, sleeping on damp, ill-ventilated and never warm sleeping porches.

THE University and the state of Oregon which owns it are big enough and financially powerful enough to step in and remove tenement conditions to the benefit of both students and fraternities if they can be convinced of the necessity for a large expenditure. It is the position of the interfraternity council to see that every consideration of this sort is obtained for the fraternities and to recognize thus conditions that do exist; that organization should cast off its lethargy and obliviousness to its own faults and investigate and evaluate any suggestion which might eliminate some of those faults. Finally, it should make the system's needs and shortcomings known to University authorities.

Simply stated, the problem is this. The University is equipped in every way except housing to handle and is handling 3000 students. It can house only about 500 to 600 of those students and some of those not too well. The fraternity system has served a worthy purpose in handling the great excess and is worth retaining for other reasons. Why not give it the help it needs to do the job properly, as long as it is assuming one of the University's obligations?

first printed in 1492.

Early printed books show marks of actual book worms. Dr. DeCou pointed out, as he showed holes eaten clear through the pages of old books.

Since Latin was the language of learned men, Dr. DeCou said, most of the books are written in Latin, with an occasional German and French one.

The earliest one in English is a 1694 edition of general arithmetic by Wingate. The oldest American volume is Nicolas Pike's "Arithmetic," printed in 1788. It gives systems of federal money in use in the various states of the country at that time, said Dr. DeCou. For many years it was used in Harvard and Yale as a textbook.

After winning the Rocky Mountain conference title in 1937, Montana State college defeated the state university's Grizzlies three games out of four for the state college basketball title.

Oregon Emerald

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The Press Is Here Again

THE Oregon Press conference of the Oregon Press association opens its twentieth annual session here today.

With one of the biggest newspaper strikes in recent years now going on in Portland, a good news year behind them, and elections once again around the corner, the editors and publishers should find several lively topics for discussion. But the annual conclave has always found much to talk about, for that matter—for the Oregon conference is one of the oldest and most successful in existence.

THE twentieth meeting finds the annual press affair one of the oldest gatherings of this type. It was preceded in its field by the Washington state press meet, inaugurated by the University of Washington school of journalism, by but three or four years.

Recognized all over the country as one of the best state conventions of newspaper men,

the annual Oregon affair is successful largely because it remains undivided, despite the fact the interests of the big and little papers grow further and further apart.

But, while the big papers grow bigger and the small sheets more numerous, respect, interest, and deference have bridged the growing circulation gap—and most of the papers in Oregon will be represented here today.

THE twentieth anniversary of the conference marks the silver anniversary of the regime of grey-haired, canny Dean Eric W. Allen as the head of the University school of journalism.

One of the things which the school of journalism has fathered, fostered, and fondled during its 25 years under the dean's tutelage is the press conference—and the best possible tribute to the journalism school's chief executive is the interesting meet which the twentieth conference promises to be.

SIDE SHOW

By Bill Cummings and Paul Deutchmann

On the Eastern corner of the Mediterranean are 350,000 square miles of land, most of which is arid. Sixteen million people inhabit this antique land which comes into the international lime-light chiefly because it is at the head of England's Suez canal. We speak of Egypt.

Seven conquerors have set up their banners in Pyramid land, since the Persians swept across with their bearded hordes in the dim centuries B.C. Current conqueror is Great Britain, who nominally added Egypt to her sprawling empire in 1914 when she declared a protectorate over the semi-autonomous part of the Turkish empire.

Egypt has burst into the news recently with the coronation and cutting up of the boy king, Farouk, who took over the royal job at 17 a few months ago. He has since fired his prime minister and married a beautiful commoner—16-year-old Farida Zulficar.

Although England relinquished her protectorate over Egypt in 1930, she still has hold of the most important strings. Egypt as well as being an important link on the route to India, is the only coastland on the southern shores of the Mediterranean under British direction. Furthermore the Capetown to London route is another colonial lifeline, dear to the Britishers as the Indian route.

In view of the Italian threat to English control of Africa, it is unlikely that the status quo will change. Egypt may keep

her autonomy, even paper independence, but the Lion will stand behind the Sphinx, because Mussolini's shadow in nearby Ethiopia looms large.

Interesting comment on the colonial situation was made yesterday by Lieut. Col. Ginks of the English Salvation Army. The veteran mercy worker, who has traveled through many of the Army's posts, says that his country may cede Western Africa to Germany in the future, if Germany will agree not to break the peace of Europe.

The colonel points out that the land (originally a German colony) is of little value to England, consisting of grazing fields inhabited for the most part by Germans and Boers.

His statement is further evidence of the curious policy the English are taking in foreign affairs at present—that of buying off the dissatisfied "have-nots" with concessions, bits of territory, recognition of rights, etc. It should be gratifying to the peace-seeking public; dismaying to the radical nationalists.

If the English continue on

Crafty Cribber

(Continued from page one)

Just a GIGOLO
"Just a Gigolo, but we make the dough," is the theme song of five men students at the University of Oklahoma who have originated a society, and escort dateless coeds for 25 cents an hour and expenses.

Campus Calendar

Phi Beta play tryouts will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. in Theresa Kelly's apartment on 751 E. 14th street. All Phi Beta members whether music or drama majors may try out.

Orides-Yeomen will sponsor a dance tonight following the game in the AWS rooms. Members free, others a dime.

Intramural managers meet today at 4 o'clock in the College Side.



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Exhibition Explained By Professor DeCou

From the dim past of the civilization which existed in Egypt 5,000 years ago has grown the whole of modern mathematics, says Edgar E. DeCou, head of the University mathematics department, as he explains the browsing room exhibition of valuable mathematics books.

The University library, together with that of the University of Washington, have the finest mathematics collection in the Northwest, says Dr. DeCou. The University has built its collection up over a period of years, until it now numbers among its works an especially valuable first printed edition of Boethius, which was made in 1492.

A recently printed volume shows facsimile pages of the Rhind papyrus which was unearthed in Egypt but a hundred years ago, and even more recently deciphered.

Written approximately 3,500 years ago, this manuscript, says Dr. DeCou, embodies all the known mathematical knowledge of the

Egyptians at that time. Asked about the accuracy of Egyptian calculations, Dr. DeCou said their methods brought them good results in measuring distances and constructing the pyramids, although the science has undergone innumerable changes since their time.

The books range from this ancient papyrus through medieval and early English and American works. The works of Boethius, used from the time he wrote them, 500 A.D., in manuscript form were

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Three Eugene students of music, Lorene Mitchell, violinist, accompanied by Dorothy Davis on the piano, and Evelyn Erickson, pianist, presented a program of music in the music hall last night.

Remember Pomeroy's Service,—ad mathematical knowledge of the