

# Oregon Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald, official student publication of the University of Oregon, published daily during the college year except Sundays, Mondays, holidays and final examination periods. Subscription rates: \$1.25 per term and \$3.00 per year. Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice, Eugene, Oregon.

Editorial offices, Journalism building 2, 6, 10, Phone Local 354, 353. Business Offices, Journalism building 5, Phone Local 354. Represented for national advertising by NATIONAL ADVERTISING SERVICE, INC., college publishers representative, 420 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y.—Chicago—Boston—Los Angeles—San Francisco.

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## Need Inadequacy Remain?

LAST Thursday The Emerald opined that the faculty had given the "no-grade" proposal an A. Developments, or rather lack of them, indicate that the grade would have been more aptly stated as "incomplete."

The discussion of the grade problem has simmered for a good number of years. It was almost a year ago that Dr. Warren D. Smith made his advanced proposal in faculty meeting that "honors," "pass," and "flunk" be substituted for the present grade system. Out of that suggestion on January 12 of this year came a committee.

Ten months later the committee's work was completed, its recommendations approved, the way cleared for action. Undoubtedly the committee had good reason to take ten months. The problem was complex. The recommendations submitted to the faculty were exceedingly astute and well-composed. They represented the results of a poll of over 100 faculty members, an analysis of the "pipe" course problem, of the bad conditions in some required courses, and ended up with a well worked-out compromise that seemed highly satisfactory.

THE faculty apparently recognized the value of the report by adopting the recommendations with hardly a note of criticism. But action since then has shown that the support was not nearly as whole-hearted as was supposed.

This conclusion might seem hasty when it is considered that only one week has passed. Tabulations of professorial opinion seem to indicate that many still favor the idea. But there is a discordant note of evasiveness, a hint about technical difficulties, a fear of antagonizing conservative elements.

In passing the senate committee recommendations, the faculty admitted that the present system was incompetent in many cases. It set up the machinery to correct conditions in courses "which often yield high grades and to which students sometimes flock to boost their grade-point average." It noted that under the five-division system in some cases "it forced the instructor to make evaluations which are perhaps logically impossible."

THESE are distinct evils. They stand in the way of education. They make the University a distributor in many cases of "fictitious grades" rather than the disseminator of knowledge.

Delaying the establishment of the "no-grade" compromise is an educational blunder. It is like passing a law and then preventing its enforcement.

The incompetence of the present system has been proven and agreed upon. The machinery to correct its inadequacy has been provided. Delay is neither logical nor necessary.

## Home for What?

EARLY Sunday morning a tired and deafened bunch of Webfoots thought Homecoming was pretty much a success. The rally had more than its share of noise, the Ducks had whipped Idaho, Barris had played to thousands. The alums—oh yes, they had been here. At least some freshmen who gave up their beds knew about it.

"Homecoming was a great affair—everybody getting together talking about old times. There were Tom and Bill who graduated last year, and Joe from two years ago, we went out and got booted together . . . and say, I forgot to tell you . . . there was one old duck from the class of '18 . . . he came around Friday evening for dinner but I never saw him after that . . . he button-holed a couple of freshmen and started talking about when Col. Leader ran the University . . . the poor frosh were bored stiff . . . and say didja notice at all the old Order of O men?"

MAYBE it didn't happen exactly this way, but there were many Sunday morning rehashes of Homecoming that took this form. And in that muddle of careless student opinion is found the problem of the alumni festival—the problem which brings recurrent rumblings of discontent.

Grads returning for the annual get-together are roughly of two groups—the recent graduates, whose contacts with the campus are still fresh, and the older alums who have memories and genuine feeling for the University, but whose contacts have decreased as the years pass.

For the younger alumni a program akin to what the student desires is just the thing. Men just a year or two out of college welcome the opportunity to become college students again. They worry little about memories, the welfare of the University is of no more special interest to them than to the general lethargic group of students.

IT IS the old alum who thinks enough of Oregon after a good many years to return who is possessed of the better Homecoming attitude. He is the product of Alumni days of the past when thousands instead of hundreds returned, when alumni meetings considered problems of the University instead of mere election formalities.

And this type of alumnus is getting scarcer. The Homecoming setup is not designed primarily for him. As we have noted in the past, the weekend is a psychological festival of

## Round 'n About....

WITH WEN BROOKS

Suppose that most of us have a bit of the devil in us and sometimes, for no reason at all, feel like doing crazy things such as throwing beer bottles . . . empties, of course . . . through department store windows about 3 a.m. Of course I never get up that early myself. I've often thought it would be fun to water-bag Dean Schweering, though . . . for just no reason at all . . . but I don't suppose she'd think so much of the idea.

Or can you picture hizzoner, the chancellor, getting out paddles at one of the state board meetings? Or a group of the faculty mill-racing Dean Earl for cutting-up at some faculty meeting? Just picture that gentleman cutting-up . . . such as standing on his hands.

Or can you imagine some night, just as the house-mother is about to blink the lights, running up and throwing your arms about her, counting to ten real loud and then hanging one on her? No, your arms are around someone else about this time but what an idea! Maybe I'm crazy. Still it might stall the old girl off a few minutes and different fellows could do the duties each night. More probably you would get a personal invitation from the Dean of Men to drop in and see that person some afternoon . . . at your earliest convenience . . . which, of course, means come at once or else! What fun.

Now, to be sure, I can't do any of these things. In the first place I haven't any empty beer bottles and can't afford to buy any new ones to empty at present. In the second place I can't afford to pay for a new typewriter ribbon to say nothing of a department store window. In the third place, other people who feel the same way I do but never tell anybody would ship me off to Salem for observa-

tion. They'd have to or be accused of not being civilized and they've gotta be considered civilized whether they are or not, but that's beside the point.

So you see, fellow students, we've gotta slowly learn to repress ourselves and be civilized but sometimes . . . like when a friend borrows your one raincoat when you're not looking and it's pouring down outside and you have an engagement some place in nothing flat . . . well, I sure feel like unrepressing myself in a hurry and saying . . . but I've gotta quit swearing. It's not nice. Aw, what's the use.

For details of the chain-gang incident in front of the Side yesterday afternoon see story on page 1. For further details see the parties concerned. And after the USC game in Portland Gentry was reported making inquiries as to just what you could do in Portland if you wanted to stay out all night! Suggest a fifth of gin.

PHILOSOPHICAL TIDBITS: the individual is the greatest person in the world to himself. Remember that when talking and working with others. Just try to!

Folks who talk all the time don't usually have any time to think about what they're saying.

And a flatterer usually has his own ends in mind. That's all.

The Pigger's guide, official student directory, goes on sale today but one fellow is not listed correctly. Sig Ep's Fred Konschot, girls, has a title. Can't you just see the social chairman introducing the lad to a house-mother at a desert-exchange . . . ANNOUNCING! (amid the rumble of drums) Baron Frederick Otto Von Konschot! Would that get 'em? The girls, I mean.

and rushed madly for food. Now I have no objections to the new officers, and I had no particular weight on my chest to be disposed of until I had finally seen a complete meeting of the Oregon Alumni association.

A little dazed by it all, I thought perhaps the pills I had swallowed were not sufficiently sugar-coated, thus accounting for the bad taste in my mouth. Later I asked several persons whom I had confidently expected to see at the meeting why they were not present. They only opened their eyes a little wider and asked, "Were you there this morning? I went once too."

Perhaps I'm taking the Alumni association of the University of Oregon too seriously. If so, I'm perfectly willing to call the whole thing a joke.

Sincerely,  
Coral Graham Kneeland.

## SWAMPS AND SWIMMING

Congratulations to the University WPA crew on having thought up a new game. Evidently tiring at last of digging-up, laying, redigging, transporting and relaying the campus lawns, they have devised a splendid new sport. No longer must the boys break their backs in humble toil. Due to the foresight of some foreman, they may now lean on their shovels and be mentally exercised at trying to figure out the possible fate of the student who tries to cross the impassable swamp left by the removal of the walk back of Gerlinger.

Now never it let it be said that the undersigned are kill-joys. Far be it from us to maliciously and wantonly spoil the sport of a fellow being. However, inasmuch as we are the guinea pigs in this game and inasmuch as many of us do not know how to swim and, inasmuch as those of us who can swim in water cannot swim in mud, therefore, we do hereby humbly suggest, sincerely plead and urgently request that the walk be replaced at once.

Yours 'till our request is granted.  
H. C.  
P. C. A.

enthusiasm—an enthusiasm which is beneficial only if it has the support of sound and serious alumni. In the din of the past weekend it was exceedingly difficult to raise any serious question. This showed itself in the lack of attendance at the alumni meeting, the growing inaccuracy of registration figures, which registered but 400 of the returning grads. Homecoming is in need of revamping.

## Wie geht's

By V. GATES

Today, the aftermath of ballot warfare, will give us that periodic information we already found out—that balancing the budget is something even a jugger won't try.

A woman columnist says what a man can never understand is that a woman's intuition is a seismograph. And we might add that her fruition is the earthquake.

Jimmy Durante was awarded an honorary degree in New York the other day for his "outstanding" contribution to the screen and drama. Another example of a long shot winning by a nose.

A headline tells us the "President to Talk on Wagner Act." But it's a cinch Wagner won't act on the President's talk.

The Lewis-Green squabble reminds us of the political wag who would rather be right than president.

The day following elections is one time everyone is glad to go on relief. From the radio orators.

## Courses Offered By Correspondence Aid Handicapped

Correspondence study is adaptable to many people who are handicapped, reports Miss Mozelle Hair, head of the University correspondence division.

A girl of 20, who has been bed-ridden several years, is taking correspondence courses. She has taken first term beginning French, intermediate algebra, college algebra, and trigonometry. At present she is studying second term French, analytical geometry, and constructive accounting.

A young man who is in a tuberculosis hospital is taking his second term of unified mathematics.

Both are making straight A records. Their mathematics papers are graded by persons on the campus, and both students plan to use their credits on college courses.

## Botany Department Has Fungi Display

About twelve types of Oregon fungi have been put on display in the Condon museum recently by F. P. Sipe, head of the botany department. The display includes both edible and poisonous mushrooms and toadstools. Specimens will be changed as new varieties are brought in.

Weather conditions are becoming more favorable to the growth of these plants and the display will become increasingly interesting, according to Dr. Sipe.

## The CALLIOPE

"Dissatisfaction of Youth in College" was the topic of Professor Casteel's group discussion class at its weekly meeting yesterday afternoon in Friendly hall. General as this topic sounds, nevertheless some very poignant facts were brought out, offering the discussionists plenty of grounds for debate.

Three causes of dissatisfaction were stressed: Economic causes, social causes, and the inadequacy of the University's study curriculum. The latter was the most interesting part, as several suggestions which are worth consideration were made.

The most far-reaching suggestion concerned a reorganization of the courses in the school of journalism, so that students planning to go into newspaper work would be given a four-year general training instead of a hit-and-miss conglomeration of subjects, which they are apt to get under the present setup.

A definite study program for each year would be laid out for the prospective journalist. The first year he would be given a fixed set of journalism subjects, covering in an elementary manner the whole field of journalism, and a fixed list of subjects outside the school of journalism offering the necessary general training to fit him for his profession.

The second year, this general journalism program of, say, six or eight term hours, would dig more deeply into each phase of newspaper work, and the last two years would increase specialization until at the time of graduation the journalism major would have a well-balanced professional training tapered off with the fine points of editing, advertising, reporting, and newspaper management. When he stepped out into the newspaper world to look for a job, he would be freshly equipped for whatever might come along, having just finished his senior year of advanced study in each phase of newspaper work. Moreover, he would be backed up by a required non-journalism course of study including well-picked courses in history, economics, and political science. These courses, like the ones in the school of journalism, would produce a tapered training from general first year subjects to highly advanced senior subjects.

This "tapered training" would eliminate the necessity of graduating seniors groping back to their freshman and sophomore years for long-forgotten knowledge in some field which is never touched again in the upper division courses of study.

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