

# Oregon Emerald

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## No Door Tax In Gerlinger

UNIVERSITY assemblies, a fixture of Thursdays at eleven, are doing no little bit these days toward keeping an assortment of very agile brains in motion. If this mental agitation continues for very long on its present track, assembly audiences in the future are likely to discover in their midst a very different animal from the assemblies in effect now.

Karl W. Onthank, dean of personnel and therefore number-one man in the University assembly setup, is no believer in slothfulness. He is one of the hardest and fastest working men on the University staff. Furthermore, having his mind pretty well on his work, he is constantly working for improvement all the way around, including assemblies.

Dean Onthank is not having to do it alone; far from it. He heads an able assembly committee, and one or two service groups have interested themselves in sprucing up assemblies to make them more attractive to students. More than that, Dr. Erb himself made his own position very clear last week at the pre-Homecoming gathering.

ASSEMBLIES at the University of Oregon represent problems peculiar to themselves; no other school has quite the same situation. First, assemblies are not compulsory here, except for the compulsion which is exercised upon Greek-letter freshmen and upon various classes. At some schools assemblies are compulsory.

Gerlinger itself is not an ideal auditorium for such a purpose. If it is enlarged sufficiently to hold a crowd it becomes an unwieldy room, still a gymnasium. The audience gets a bad break, what with creaking chairs, squeaking doors, leather heels, and early-leavers. Freshmen must sit in the balcony, although there is plenty of room below, and the absence of the freshmen from the main floor makes the auditorium look half-filled.

## Authors' Club--The UO Faculty

FILTERING into the campus this week are the vanguard of the first issue of a new book by another University of Oregon professor, George S. Turnbull of the school of journalism.

Professor Turnbull's work concerns, naturally enough, newspapers—the history of Oregon newspapers—and is the result of years of careful endeavor. It is in a class all by itself. Next month George Turnbull will be guest of honor at a banquet commemorating 23 years of service here for him, as well as the publication of this new volume.

But George Turnbull's book is not the only new one out by an Oregon professor. H. D. Sheldon's history of the University of Oregon is shortly to roll off the presses, while F. G. G. Schmidt, retired from the German department, has a fine German-American vocabulary volume.

These are the three most recent; the pro-

leaves a bad impression. No crying need for a new building is hereby suggested—only that there is room for some smoothing over of rough spots in utilization of Gerlinger.

To the average upperclassman assemblies mean little. He does not have to go, and chances are he will not go unless for a very special reason. There are plenty of upperclassmen who have never held down an assembly chair since their freshman days. The fact that they do not is not so bad in itself as the fact that they have no interest in going; and the assembly setup is an important adjunct to regular classroom education.

ONE of the suggestions for change, which unfortunately can have no effect this year, is the hour. It is possible that eleven in the morning of a day which is otherwise mostly free from classes is not too attractive. An hour earlier would be better. And it is a fact that the speaker has three strikes against him after half an hour, perhaps sooner; for when the call of lunch asserts itself the audience take on a different character and turns a deaf ear to the proceedings. This change in the audience is pronounced and easily discernible the moment it happens, as if an electric current had hit the crowd all at once.

One thing which keeps assemblies long is that speakers are told they may talk up to the end of the period, rather than for 20 minutes, 30 minutes, or whatever would be the most desirable for a unified speech. Some speakers are clever enough to say what they have to say and stop, while others are less considerate.

There are some reports which merit consideration, but the list is already obviously overlong. At any rate the would-be assembly improvers have their work cut out for them. All they have to do is work things out so that Gerlinger will be so crowded every Thursday that undergraduates will have to come early or fight for seats.

cess goes on all the time. Every year some University of Oregon professor either produces or has a hand in the producing of some book. They work for years before they will permit the finished product to go into type. Many of the textbooks in use at the various schools of the University are home-grown products, written by the professors who teach the courses the books cover. And these books can compete with any others ever written in their field.

This tendency to become authors without any compulsion is something that does the University no harm. It shows these men are thinking, are authorities worthy of recognition.

Accordingly, to George Turnbull congratulations are in order; his book is the most immediate. To all other University of Oregon authors, present and future, more of the same. It's one of the things which go to make a university great.

## The World At Large

By JACK BUKER

Japan's apparent failure in China is due in no small way to "below the board" business practices of a group of American and British "sharpshooters."

Japanese occupied territory contains a gold mine of Chinese industrial plants, some of which have been partly destroyed. Nipponese industrialists eyed these huge factories with the idea of making them pay for the war.

But no sooner had they kicked the Chinese out, when they beheld large American and British flags sailing over most of the factories. The Japanese really got mad when signs began to appear on the property that read: "Owned and operated by the Associated American Industries."

It seems that forming a corporation in the state of Delaware is like getting a divorce in Reno. Then the newly organized company by phony and an equally complicated arrange-

ment, becomes the owner of a huge Chinese cotton mill, etc. Chinese capital operates the factory or salvages the machinery, and the Japanese, amidst much hissing of breath, raise merry hell.

To complete the picture the foreign operators must place one of their country's citizens on the property, which keeps the Japanese from blowing it up.

Arriving in Shanghai stony broke, I was only too glad to take one of those jobs, thinking I would get in on a little adventure. I was sent several miles out of Shanghai to what is considered the largest cotton mill in China, with the title of assistant manager.

My job consisted of supervising salvaging, keeping out Chinese bandits, and trying to make friends with the local Japanese military. First they scared all of my coolies away. Then, by not allowing me or my Russian guards, who were hired to keep the Chinese guards awake, to have firearms, I had to stand by and direct heavily armed bandits to the nearest way out.

after they had gathered as much loot as they could carry.

So far it was adventure, but one night a band of Chinese guerillas began shooting up the place. It seems that a couple of Japanese officers got killed. The next day a whole company of soldiers broke down our gate and stormed in with fixed bayonets.

Through an interpreter I was told to leave under penalty of death. In the meantime they had tacked a sign on the front gate that said death to all who enter. I called the American consul in Shanghai, who got in touch with a Japanese official, who saved me some trouble. I was eventually given a pass, but preferred to retire to the more comfortable quarters of a newspaper office in Shanghai.

My first feature story told of the entire incident, together with a reminder of how similar practices some years ago by the British started the famed "Arrow War." But one of the executives of the company involved was an influential citizen, who taught me a lesson in the freedom of the press, but that is another story.

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## Behind the 8 BALL

With JACK BRYANT

### BULLETIN

Sigma Chi's pick DG's Evelyn Nelson for "sweetheart." They are not re-building their homecoming barricade to ward off other fourteen sororities. Preparing more tactful defense.

Chi Psi's frosh fill house full of sawdust and wood, then walk out.

A pair of "Jacks" turned up at the Alpha Chi's Wednesday, and now Marilyn Ashley packs one of her fingers around in a splint . . . HINT: it could have been a game of slap . . . Even the dorms are going ritzy . . . Alpha had an initiation for the newcomers last Saturday from 2 a.m. on . . . COMPLICATIONS: Two girls in the same house with identical formal, SUNNY STANKE and LORRAINE JONES. . . Today's "SHE GETS AROUND" list: (Please turn to page four)

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## Delta Phi Alpha Starts Work

Appointing two committees, George Bodner, president of Delta Phi Alpha, German honorary, last night started ground work on two new club projects.

Bringing to the campus of the German-made movie, "Der Zigeunerbaron," ("The Gypsy Baron") within the next month will be the biggest undertaking. With the waltzes of Johann Strauss as the central feature, the movie, like other foreign-made films, will have English sub-titles so that those without an understanding of German will not be handicapped.

Naming Maurice Goldberg chairman, Bodner appointed Aida Brun, Eugene Didak, and Betty Jane Thompson to the publicity and ticket committee.

Preliminary plans were also made for a combined meeting of the French, Spanish, and German honoraries. Named to this committee were Lorraine Gjording, Robert Petter, and Joe Amato; Mas Gjording and Mr. Petter to represent the French and Spanish honoraries respectively, of which they are also members.

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Donald Duck has enrolled in the Indiana school of law. Which goes to prove that there are some quick lawyers.



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