

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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"While the Fascists regard the press as a nuisance and therefore suppress it, the believers in democracy also regard the freedom of press as a nuisance and thank God they have so glorious a nuisance."—Lin Yutang. This week is National Newspaper Week.

The Light that Lit Homecoming

ANOTHER Oregon tradition went by the boards this week when University and student officials decided to drop the idea of having a freshman bonfire at Homecoming. The noise parade and rally will be held as usual, but with no fire around which to congregate.

There are a number of reasons for dropping the age-old bonfire. First is the frosh-rook game here that night. Most of the students will want to attend the game and the fire would make the rally last too long, officials say.

Another reason advanced by officials is the difficulty of obtaining any kind of a site for the fire. The city of Eugene, particularly the University district, has grown so in the last few years that all available space has been taken up. The few vacant lots near the campus are in a thickly populated section and the city fire department will not permit any large fire there. The only available space is along 19th street, some distance from the campus.

It has become increasingly difficult to obtain materials for the fire, is given as a third reason. City ordinances forbid stacking of boxes, etc. around stores and garbage trucks pick up most of the available material each day.

Chief reason, however, for dropping the Homecoming fire is the lack of interest shown by students, particularly freshmen, in this tradition. Frosh bonfires have steadily become smaller and smaller. The crews canvassing the town for available material have contained fewer freshmen with each succeeding class. First year men have come to regard building a bonfire as work rather than a chance to have a good time.

Perhaps the size of the classes has had much to do with this. With the present number of frosh it is almost impossible for each member to know all, or even the majority, of his class. This has eliminated much of the old time interest in the occasion.

If the blame—if you choose to call it blame—for putting out the Homecoming fire is to fall on anyone it should fall on the freshman classes—the present students.

So while we regret and oppose the passing of the frosh bonfire, and another Oregon tradition, we realize that it met its death not at the hands of any particular faculty or student ruling, but as the result of changing conditions and changing student attitudes.

The Homecoming bonfire was put out, not by one huge deluge, but by several insistent drops.

Socrates Invented It

"AS a man speaketh, so is he" runs the quotation across an achievement award for symposium speakers in Director Dahlberg's office of the speech department. Stolen from that peripatetic philosopher, Socrates, the word symposium has brought meaning to one of Oregon's soundest extra-curricular activities.

To explain it is simple: the profound Greek once attended banquets with his talkative friends of the mart and arena, introduced a provocative subject, then persuaded all the celebrants to voice their opinions on it. Streamlined today, symposium-debate in the speech department begins with three months of research by undergraduates on a chosen subject, then considerable travel around the state presenting the problem studied and its possible solutions. Service clubs, church groups, and other student bodies are the audiences. Today the scholarship committee of the interfraternity council lists this activity as significantly profitable for students.

WITH a growth from several audiences five years ago, the symposium squad now receives invitations from more than a hundred representative groups yearly to present their intellectual bull-sessions. Its value is evidenced by its increased fame about the state. Truly "as a man speaketh, so is he" takes on added meaning when one presents his opinions before a skeptical audience for he must further justify his beliefs with serious argument. Provoking thought, improving speech, encouraging acquaintanceship with one's state and verbally clashing with interesting personalities are some of the values received. Demanded in return is a healthy participation and an inquiring mind. Socrates should be decorated posthumously for the symposium he invented. Dahlberg should be extremely busy accepting more invitations for the symposium squad he adapted.—R.N.V.

A Neighborly Glance

By CORINE LAMON, Exchange Editor

Registration officials at Stanford university don't know whether to credit it to the lure of the army or a recent tuition increase, but first day enrollment figures dropped 27 persons below last year's.

On the California campus at Berkeley (just as it is done at Oregon each year during Homecoming) stalwart frosh will guard this weekend the big "C" against marauders on the eve of a big football game.

Athletic memberships at Oregon State college this year are priced at \$10, to be paid all at once or in payments of \$6 this month, and \$4 at the beginning of winter quarter.

(a la Ogden Nash)
I wish I were a dinosaur
I wouldn't have to study—Or
Go to classes—For
I'd be so big
I couldn't get in the DOR.
—Exchange.

The Brigade in White Answers

THE supposedly-friendly "hello" and glad hand extended by Oregon's sophomore service honoraries at last Saturday night's "Hello" dance has come in for a lot of ribbing this week. Some campus critics question the thoroughness of the frosh welcome.

Wednesday's paper carried a letter from "a student" deriding the Kwama and Skull and Dagger groups for their purely official work at the affair. The writer commended them for what was done, but demanded to know why so many new unacquainted students were left neglected after actual dancing began.

This morning, in the "Letters to the Editor" column, the presidents of the two honoraries answer irately the accusation of inefficient rendering of their designated task of greeting new students.

TO undermine the two white-sweatered groups who work so diligently on all school affairs in an effort to make people feel at home, to help guests find seats at assemblies, and to generally make themselves the service groups they are designed to be seems, in a sense, to be barking up the wrong tree.

Undermine instead the whole social setup of the campus. It just happens to have started somewhere back in the dim distant past that when an Oregon pigger takes his coed to a dance, he devotes practically all of his attention to her. The democratic nature of such a procedure is questionable . . . and undoubtedly a friendlier attitude could be visualized. A more informal setup is an ideal toward which we might well be disposed to devote some time and attention.

KWAMAS and Skull and Daggers are chosen each spring on the bases of friendliness and service to their school. Their professed motto is "to promote democracy and friendship among the students of the University of Oregon."

These three score students in white have, as far as they are able under the present setup, lived up to this creed. Perhaps, as the letter writer suggests, the campus is ripe for a democratic movement pointed at simplicity in meeting new people. If so, Kwama and Skull and Dagger could figure prominently, for they are the keynoters and are in a position to be the strongest University backers of the whole "let's get acquainted" movement.

The Future of the Union

YOU must learn to creep before you can walk. At least that was the decision reached by student leaders during the last school year in regard to the ever-present student union question.

The student union building problem reaches far back into the annals of University history. For many years it has been a source of much bickering and contention. Everybody wanted a student union building but nobody seemed to know just how to go about getting one. Student leaders, who wanted to take the trip in one huge leap, called for contributions to create a student union building fund. The donations were forthcoming all right but not in sufficient amounts to create a very substantial fund toward a new building. Various other expedients were attempted all with the same purpose in mind, that is, to high pressure the thing through all at once.

Another weakness in the student union campaign lay in the fact that it was managed almost entirely by seniors. Each year these seniors would graduate and the next year a new group who knew nothing about what had been done or needed to be done took over. Thus it was that each year the student leaders who were carrying on the fight for a student union building retraced the steps that had been taken by those who had preceded them.

SO it is not surprising that progress on the much discussed student union was slow and painful and students became pretty generally discouraged and disgusted.

Last year however student leaders decided that it was time for a new deal for the student union. Under the chairmanship of Roy N. Vernstrom, second vice-president of the ASUO, a committee of approximately 20 freshmen was appointed to work with a central committee composed of sophomores, juniors, and seniors in an effort to do some really constructive work on the student union. This committee was appointed to serve for four years, and each year another committee was to be appointed from the freshman class. This would insure a permanent consistent program which, it is intended, will eventually culminate in a student union building.

Student leaders, it seems, have finally given up trying to do things by leaps and bounds and are laying a solid foundation upon which to build.

In the Mail

Dear Editor:

Whoever the person is who signs his (or her) letters simply as "A student," and so unfairly takes a swing at the sophomore service honoraries, Skull and Dagger and Kwama, should delve deeper into the facts before condemning these organizations.

For instance, he should have found out exactly what the official function of these two honoraries was at the Hello dance Saturday, and then should have based his criticism accordingly. The sophomores were placed in charge of the receiving line . . . that is, taking the freshmen and other new students over to the University officials and seeing that they were properly introduced. This, we believe, was accomplished successfully.

The members of these two organizations arrived at the Igloo at 8:30 and spent two hours meeting and introducing new students. When the crowd had subsided at 10:30 . . . they joined their long lost dates and danced. Naturally, these sophomores

were taken aback Tuesday morning when they were condemned for neglecting what they were commissioned to do . . . that is, in addition to their official duties (which claimed more than half of their time) to act as date bureaus and taxi dancers.

These sophomores heartily agree that everything possible should be done to make the new students at Oregon feel at home, and if chartered to do so, would be happy to make that one of their official functions next year.

Skull and Dagger and Kwama commend the YMCA for its good work in acquainting the incoming freshmen . . . and suggest that in the future the "Y" appoint a committee to look after the frosh at similar affairs. Not only will that benefit the freshmen, but it will exonerate blameless service societies from the beatings of malinformed spectators.

Sincerely yours,
Len Ballif
Bud Wumberly
Marge Dibble

The BAND BOX

By BILL MOKLEY

Glenn Miller's "Slow Freight" was inspired, amazing as it may seem, by a slow freight. The tune was written two years ago by Buck Ram, an arranger. It seems that he was playing a group of one-nighters with Red Norvo's band which traveled from job to job via railroad. On this particular night Mr. Ram was standing quietly in a Pullman car when he heard a freight train rumble by on another track. Arranger Ram was so impressed by the steady beat of the lumbering freight that he yelled something to this effect: "Get a load of that rhythm. If that isn't a song I'll eat my last five arrangements!"

Mr. Ram may have eaten his last five arrangements in the two years of failure for his composition, but he's probably coughed them up again by now in his exuberance over the royalties which Glenn Miller's arrangement has brought him.

Business Is Booming

To meet the rush demand for boogie woogie, Decca is releasing a strictly boogie woogie album sometime this month. This album is supposed to contain the most of the best piano stylings ever recorded.

Included in the collection will be two sides by Mary Lou Williams, two by Pete Johnson, one by Albert Ammons, one by Meade Lux Lewis, and several single sides by other outstanding b.w. experts.

And Not a Drop to Drink


Mitchell Ayres' band grossed 60,000 bottle tops during its recent stay at Manhattan Beach in New York. . . . The dance was sponsored by a soft drink manufacturer who charged 3 of his bottle tops as the admission price. After the dance the boys in the band traded the bottle tops back to the manufacturer for a few greenbacks . . . which were a bit more useful.

Smiling Ruth Lowe who wrote "I'll Never Smile Again" is all set for a personal appearance tour of many eastern theaters. It will probably be quite a task to keep a straight face in front of all those yelling audiences. . . . "I'm Nobody's Baby," recently waxed by Tommy Dorsey, and high in Hit Parade standing, sold 350,000 copies of piano music when it was first published way back in 1921. . . . Maybe "Maybe" will do as well during its present revival.

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International Side Show

By RIDGLEY CUMMINGS

Remember how the agitation started to put conscription over? An editorial in the N. Y. Times was the first straw in the wind. Then the hullabaloo started and before long all the leading U. S. "thinkers" fell into line.

Well, there is another straw in the wind today. Senator William H. King, a democrat from Utah, is sponsoring legislation to modify the Johnson act in order to permit loans to Great Britain.

The Johnson act forbids the lending of money to a nation in default of its debts to the government of the United States. Great Britain still owes this country roughly five billion dollars.

Back last summer when the solons were fighting over amending the neutrality act to let the British buy arms, the late Senator Borah and some of the other isolationists predicted that that would be only the first step. They called the turn.

When we scrapped the neutrality bill we practically entered the European war on England's side, in spite of the pious promises of Roosevelt et al that the action would be a constructive step toward peace.

So far FDR hasn't committed himself on this King legislation, but it is only a matter of time. Already Claude Pepper, who led the administration's fight for conscription and for the

transfer of 50 U. S. destroyers to Britain, has jumped into the battle. That is an ominous sign.

Great Britain is reported to have two and a half billion in cash left, so it is possible that the whole affair may be shelved until after election.

We're reminded of something we heard the other day. It went like this: "You can't expect to be an arsenal for one belligerent without becoming a target for the other side." Sounds logical.

Peace. It's wonderful!

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