

Forty Indignant Dormitory Residents Air Opinions On Emerald Editorial Policies

(Editor's note: The following letters were received by the Emerald yesterday after publication of an editorial criticizing dormitory management. Believing that students should be given every opportunity for the expression of their opinions on campus questions, the Emerald is publishing part of the letters received, the rest to be run in future issues. Letters are arranged alphabetically by last names of the writers. In certain cases it was thought advisable to withhold the name of the writer.)

Definite proposals for revision of the dormitory set-up appear on page 2 of today's Emerald.)

Hearty Agreement

To the Editor:

We, the undersigned residents of Zeta hall, wish it to be known that we heartily agree with the editorial, "ARE THEY GETTING THEIR MONEY'S WORTH?" which appeared in the December 4 issue of the Oregon Daily Emerald. We wish to protest particularly the low wages of the housekeepers and the noon lunches.

George R. Pederson
James R. Magee
Peter Gregor
H. Zophar Tharp
William Anderson
John W. Stott
Dudley Fagerstrom
Ray C. Abst
Bill Goss
Sherman Otts
Lew Scale
Bob Johnson
Saul Wasmuth
John L. Jeensen

Supports Stand

To the Editor:

We heartily agree with you in the stand you take against the dormitory situation.

Bob Baldwin
Clell Crane
Euclid Paris

Greeted Warmly

To the Editor:

Your editorial in this morning's Emerald was greeted very warmly by a very large percentage of the members of our organization and we appreciate very much your efforts to bring this matter to the attention of the University administration.

You covered the situation very adequately when you stated that the men in the dormitories were not getting for their money a sufficient return, when compared to the returns realized by the members of fraternities and sororities on this campus. It would seem therefore, that our administration should be carefully investigated and any discrepancies in management should be brought to light and corrected.

I am very much in favor of your stand, and think that, as a result of your editorial, the situation will be investigated, which will be of great benefit to the residents of the dorms.

Peyton Bennett

A Gem

To the Editor:

Your editorial on the situation now prominent at the men's dormitory was a gem. In the proverbial term, "you hit the nail square on the head." You can count on my 100 per cent cooperation.

Don Bridenstine

Swell Editorial

To the Editor:

Swell editorial on the dorm situation. I hope it will do something towards better meals.

Ike Brown.

For the Management

To the Editor:

"The dorm situation" as you put it, is not, perhaps quite so bad as your editorial infers. It is only natural for a group of people such as those who live in the dormitory to have little grievances and "whispering campaigns."

The atmosphere in the dormitory is very congenial and friendships are carried on in their true light, without having any attitude of fraternal spirit forced upon the residents.

The living quarters are extremely good. In fact, I would go so far as to say they are the best on the campus. Where, on the campus, will you get a room, shared only by one other person, with a private wash-hand basin, lighting system, reliable heat, mirrors galore, adequate closet and drawer space, two study desks, and chairs to match—all for \$33 per term?

In case of breakage, naturally we pay for the broken article. Do they have some mystic financier to pay for breakage in fraternities and sororities?

The wages paid in the dormitory may be the minimum, but they do not vary greatly with the wages paid in fraternities and sororities.

The preparation of meals for over 400 students is, as you say, a problem, especially as these meals have to suffice for both boys and girls. During the two years I ate at the dormitory, I found the meals quite substantial, and never remember being hungry. However, there were times when the lunches were open to criticism.

Therefore, it appears to me, that the "dorm situation is not such a serious problem that it cannot be rectified by a proposal, through the inter-dorm council to Mrs. Turnipseed, to change or omit certain items on the menu.

Jim Browne

President, Inter-dorm Council

Unsavory Breakfast

To the Editor:

Having just finished another unsavory breakfast, I picked up this morning's Emerald to find that the editorial had taken a good many words out of my mouth and expressed them in somewhat more modified terms than I would have. I heartily approved of the editorial, not simply because its contents coincide with my own sentiments on dorm conditions, but because I am fully aware that our entire hall has long felt angry resentment toward the defective dorm management. I, for one, greatly appreciate your interest in seeing that the dorms get a square deal, and have confident hope that you will obtain satisfactory results, so that the occupants will no longer have to grumble their complaints in helpless despair.

Ross Butler

Better Looking Food?

To the Editor:

I think that some of the meals are very good and some are poor. How about some better looking food than that over-cooked cream pea serving we had this week? Usually the meat cuts are good, but could they come right off the stove to the plate and thus avoid that warmed-over look and taste.

With a dietician at the head of the kitchen we are probably getting better balance and calories. Now how about a high standard every day? Some speed and polish in

serving would help the effect. Would it take one more man?

Relf Case

Bold Stand

To the Editor:

I wish to commend the Emerald for its bold stand on the dormitory food situation. Your editorial of this morning was the entire truth throughout. It is the opinion of all residents of Alpha hall that conditions are as bad as presented in the article. In fact it might be said that you even pulled your punches quite a bit.

Now is the time to strike while the iron is hot.

Robert Edwards

Agree 100 Per Cent

To the Editor:

Yes, you bet I agree with your editorial 100 per cent.

Another thing that gets me is: where is all of the money that is being paid by over 500 students going? Somebody must be getting paid a nice fat salary. And for what? Sitting with their feet on a desk!

Why is it that if a chair or a light globe is broken unintentionally, of course, that we immediately get docked the full amount of our breakage fee. You can't even mount a pencil sharpener in your room without going to 15 people and getting their permission. We want to be free! Why treat us as though we had to answer to a "big boss" that we never see. To be our own bosses is the reason we chose to stay in the "Dorm."

I think it is about time something were done about just a few of the things are going around here.

Let's do something about this. Let's pay a decent wage for hired help. Why do we have to pay "scab" wages. These boys and girls give the University valuable time and get nothing in return. If a decent wage scale was maintained the labor turnover would be reduced to a minimum. At the present time they are having to beg students to help the regular crew in the kitchen. All that I can attribute this to is very poor management on somebody's part.

You bet, Mr. Editor; I'm behind you 100 per cent.

Bryce Thalman

Lynn Freeman

Heartily Commended

To the Editor:

The Emerald is to be most heartily commended on its editorial concerning dormitory food as expressed in this morning's edition. As a member of one of the dormitory living organizations I hope the policy will be urgently continued.

Jim Gibson

Poor Pay

To the Editor:

I agree with the editorial in the Emerald of Dec. 4, 1941. The employees of dormitories are very poorly paid. The dishwashers, hashers, and bussers get only 30 cents an hour for their work. They really earn at least 50 cents an hour. When the prices go up the employees wages raises to 35 cents an hour. The average employee makes about \$15 to \$20 a month.

The food is good sometimes and again it is very poor. I received twice as good food in a boarding house in Portland for \$25 a month where they buy it in much smaller quantities and at higher rates. It seems to me it is a racket.

Robert Gierau.

Vividly and Accurately

To the Editor:

Great! You have voiced vividly and accurately the views I have heard countless dormitory residents express.

Roy Hensley.

Where's Money Go?

To the Editor:

I appreciated that article of this morning's Emerald about the dormitories. I am sure that we all would like to know where all our money goes.

Another thing is the fact that many of us miss meals such as breakfasts or even as much as our weekend meals when we go home. It doesn't seem right that we must pay for all the meals we miss, too. True I admit that I will gladly pay for my meals even if I miss one or two meals a week but many don't eat any breakfast and still pay for all the meals.

I hope that the Emerald will continue to back us as long as within reason.

John Hediger

Well Pictured

To the Editor:

Thanks for your editorial on the "Dorm Situation." The situation was well pictured. Perhaps more emphasis can be placed on certain points, such as the lack of paper towels and soap dispensers in the washrooms.

H. Kay Ito

Improvement

To the Editor:

There certainly is room for improvement. I believe you are correct in wishing a check-up.

Edgar Lewis

Money's Worth

To the Editor:

I read your splendid editorial concerning the "dorm" in this morning's Emerald with a great deal of pleasure.

For years the living and eating conditions here in the dorm have been the object of considerable discussion and criticism from the students living in the various halls. Time after time the question as to whether we were getting our money's worth has arisen. I believe the greater majority of the residents here agree that they are not.

The "dorm" of all places on the campus should be the most economical place to live. It is the place where the people of lesser financial means, and those who are endeavoring to get through college in the most economical way naturally expect the most for their hard earned money.

Indications point to the fact that many shortcuts are utilized to cut expenses and costs in the building. The fact of reduced percentage of people eating on Saturday and Sunday mornings is taken into consideration. Furniture broken in the buildings is charged to the students at outrageously high prices, repaired, then returned to use for someone else to unavoidably break in its weakened condition. It is a common joke among the students that said furniture has been paid for many times.

It is a commonly known fact that the University of Oregon Dads' club is investigating the food situation by an occasional visitation. On one of these visitations we were served the best meal that we have had this term. On weekends when visitors are at the University our food is of the best quality and well planned. These facts I believe are significant.

I do not know the situation

concerning the allocation of the funds here at the dormitory nor do I have any evidence to support a belief that there is mismanagement, but I do believe that a very thorough investigation should be made by a group of experts to determine any improvements which might be made or if the present administrators are incompetent. Immediate action should, I believe, be taken in this direction.

Daniel E. Mercer

Yea Man

To the Editor:

Regards your editorial about dorm food. Yea man.

Rod Miller

Paying for Them

To the Editor:

The editorial appearing at the top of page two of Thursday, December 4, Emerald very well expresses my idea of the food situation in the dormitories. Something really should be done to better this situation. We should have consistently good meals because we are paying for them.

Jack O'Harra

A Protest

To the Editor:

As one of the girls who have eaten at the men's dorm for two months, I wish to protest the editorial in this morning's Emerald as being unjust. It would be impossible to plan each meal to suit the whims of 550 individuals but the food is remarkably well balanced with plenty of milk and green vegetables, the meat is well cooked and on the whole there is something wrong with a girl or boy who leaves the table hungry. I have heard the same complaints from those who live in sororities and fraternities, so it is evident that some people can never be satisfied. It is true that we prefer roast turkey to creamed turkey, and put up a howl—but maybe by Christmas that craving will be satisfied! With the price of food sky high, let's be fair and generous to those who serve us.

W. L. R.

Food "Stinks"

To the Editor:

I read your editorial this morning, and you seem to have hit the nail on the head when you politely intimated that the dorm food "STINKS." Fortunately, for myself, I don't have to eat here any more, due to the fact that I have a job that pays my board. However, my heart really pines for the poor fellas that have to continue eating here.

There is one other thing that I cannot see. There are 52 students residing in Alpha hall. Each of these students pays the fee of \$33 per term for room rent. This does not include the so-called board. 52 times 33 dollars equals 1,716 dollars per term, or 5,148 dollars per year, merely for our room. Yet, the dormitory management claims that we don't have enough money to have soap and paper towels in the lavatories. . . . What do they do with the 5,148 dollars that we pay every year?

Frank Sauer

Favors Proposal

To the Editor:

I am in favor of a proposal which will, to any degree, improve the quality of nourishment administered to dormitory residents. Even if a change in administration or of administration policy is necessary to effect this change.

Donald E. Selby