

After the Bombs, Still Number One

When the first bombs dropped on Hawaii early in the morning of December 7 the ordinary activities of the millions of people in the rich country which had the islands for its territory were put aside, they did not know for how long, until the sudden-breaking war had ended.

One of the smallest things that was postponed for the duration was an idea which had been brooding in the minds of Oregon students for many years. It was a plan for a student union building.

Not Rich

This was nothing new. Other campus had buildings where students met and where visiting artists performed. But Oregon had never been a rich campus and other, more pressing, needs had put the building in the background.

After much spadework, however, it had seemed, before Pearl Harbor, that everything was ready for the union. Now, with the union an absolutely dead issue, other things have the spotlight and there has been danger of the union being killed forever.

One reason for this slaughter is arguments that have been advanced promoting other buildings to be built after the emergency is done. But a concrete promise that these plans would not interfere with the student's dream when building was again considered on the campus was given Friday by the young, vigorous president of Oregon, Donald M. Erb. Said Erb, "The student union is number one on the list. I am committed to the erection of a student union building."

Killed

With no indecision, however, he indicated that the student union was definitely killed for the duration. The nation's efforts are concentrated on war and he indicated that there can be no distractions from this. "All expectations which we had for a possible student union project have now been put in a pigeonhole," he said.

So the dream which had its beginnings in the mind of Lyle Bartholomew, ASUO president in 1921-22, and was carried on by John MacGregor, again was put on the shelf, this time to make way for the most pressing emergency that had yet caused its deferment. But the promise which Dr. Erb made Friday gave new hope to many students who had heard arguments in the past months for, when the time came, the erection of other buildings.

A Dream

Dr. Erb has not, of course, been the first president of Oregon to throw his weight behind the stu-

dent union building for Prince L. Campbell, president from 1902 to 1925, was also one of its chief sponsors and included the idea in his \$10,000,000 "greater Oregon" campaign. Two of the objectives of the campaign has been achieved, a stadium and a gymnasium, but the student union is still a dream.

It was near to a reality, however, before the war guns boomed for the state legislature had passed a bill to permit \$250,000 to be borrowed to finance the project. Important fact of this bill was that it was not a grant but merely gave permission to borrow the money.

And a Hope

Other aid was also then, apparently in sight, for Dr. Erb Friday, "We had thought that we would be in a financial condition by the end of 1943 or the beginning of 1944 so that the building fund would begin to free itself from the bonds now outstanding for the library and other campus buildings. We had also hoped that

by that time a public works program might assist in the work."

So certain were campus authorities that the union would be erected that on May 13, 1941, a student-faculty committee had given its decision on the question of a site. First choice was Dedy, second, Sheldon, third, millrace. **Were Shelved**

But these years-long plans were all shelved Friday when in his sunny office Dr. Erb outlined the present status of the student union. He was not indecisive or hesitant on the subject but talked as a man would who has had his mind made up for some time. Although the student union movement is rightly dead until normalcy is reached again the students of Oregon now have definite promise that it will not be put aside because of plans for other buildings. When building is again started on the Oregon campus the student union is "number one on the list."

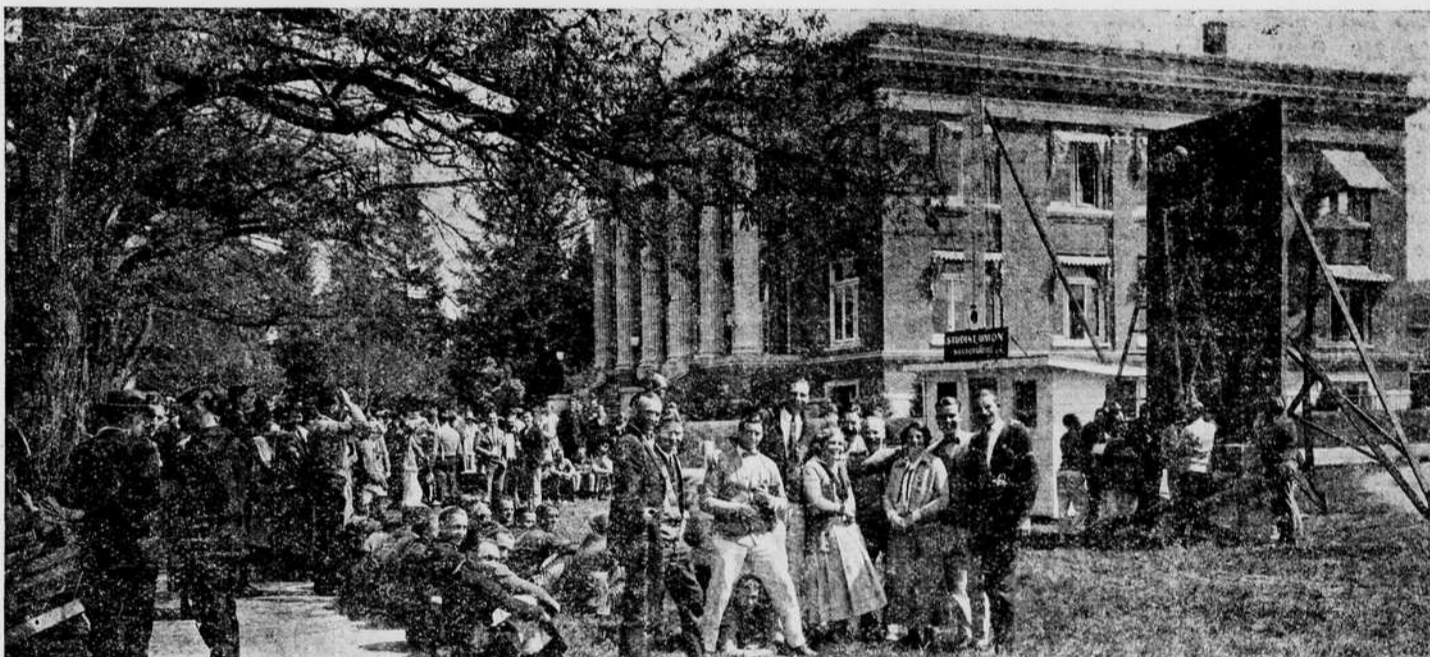
Campus Calendar

Installation of officers will be the highlight of the Yeomen potluck dinner set for 6 p.m. Monday night in Gerlinger hall.

The ASUO Executive council and members running for top four positions will meet on the council upstairs in the Side, Sunday night at 9 o'clock.

All Emerald reporters will meet this morning at 11 o'clock in the news room to discuss plans for reorganization and the frosh edition.

Glenn Wessels, noted artist and teacher, has been appointed assistant professor of fine arts at Washington State college.



DREAM STAGES . . .

. . . of the student union. Above, students of 1923-24, headed by John MacGregor, student body president, watch the rise of the union's gift campaign thermometer. Right, three of the sites chosen in '41: top, Fiji; middle, Dads' gates; bottom, Sheldon. Below, President Erb who Friday stated that after the war the union was still "number one on the list."

