

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

Published daily during the college year except Sundays, Mondays, holidays and final examination periods by the Associated Students, University of Oregon.
Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice, Eugene, Oregon.

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AT SECOND GLANCE

War Brings . . . New Anxiety . . . From Fronts

Fighting in the Solomons slackened a little Thursday, but apparently only for a breathing spell before another pitched battle is joined.

American forces were still taking a heavy toll of the Nipponese attackers, the navy reported. The disproportionate heavy losses being suffered by the enemy may do much to offset the lack of equipment and supplies which is handicapping our forces. Navy fliers returning Wednesday to Pearl Harbor after seeing action around Guadalcanal, declared that our forces there were taking heavy toll of the enemy, but that they were strongly outnumbered and needed supplies and equipment badly.

New Threat

The Japs do not seem to be content with keeping us busy in the Solomons, but are posing a new threat by assembling powerful striking forces at the sea approaches to the New Hebrides and Fiji islands. These American bases lie directly on our supply route from Honolulu to Sydney, and any attack upon them would be of major importance.

In revealing this new turn of events the navy described the enemy forces being mobilized as "superior numbers of ships, planes, and men," more evidence that Japs are certainly not failing in their attempt to gain a decision in the South Pacific.

Rommel's tank forces, meanwhile, were reeling backward from blows delivered by the British eighth army as the desert offensive widened breaks in the Axis El Alem line. The Allied advance was rolling forward over the wreckage of Africa corps vehicles smashed in the continuous attacks from the skies dominated by United Nations airmen.

Heavy Blows

Our air attacks were not confined to concentrations of enemy motorized equipment on land, but smashed Axis supply ships far out over the Mediterranean where furious air battles were being resumed.

In Russia attention shifted from Stalingrad, where the G

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DEFENSE NOTE TO HOUSEBOYS

Roses are red,
Posies are pink.
Don't toss waste fats
Down the kitchen sink.
This is war, and it's real.
Tomorrow means another meal.

The University at war is becoming so complete, so airtight that we're well alarmed that it's here to stay; that after the peace (which will never enter our mind) things may not

drop back to normal. Besides, we're becoming convinced more and more each day that there will soon be only girls on this campus with two dates to their credit; one of them is the date of their birth.

Al Larsen Writes --

Longing sighs about "the good old college spirit" and its hilarity, as accidentally brought to life by the scrap drive, do not mean that the old rah-rah college days will return.

Fewer collegiate Homecoming slogans, elimination of annual noise parades, fewer and simpler social events, greater discipline, more study and forced interests, and even higher GPA requirements may only be temporary. But, like New Deal reforms that are forced by crises, to a great extent they will remain and flavor the future.

Unavoidable

The world is moving in on college youngsters. They are being forced to grow up. Their activities and thoughts are not merely dictated by the war emergency, but by the maturing of their Uncle Sam.

To the rest of the world America has been a land where the promise of a future has always been great—a democracy. Our way of life, however, had the national growth. Opportunity national growth. Opportunity was automatic. Freedom from fear and want could be got by individual initiative. Rights were gained, not given. Most things were taken for granted, allowing hope, or wishful thinking, to become one of the strongest elements in our American secular religion.

New Pattern

Young people are today thinking and readjusting themselves to an advancing world and a positive form of democracy. Democracy must now embrace constructive ideas regarding individual welfare. Equal rights, not rights. Freedom to live and grow, not freedom to exist. Acceptance of mutual obligations, not rugged individualism.

Of simultaneous importance is the realistic adjustment of our national character to a new international arrangement—world economic democracy. Every trade of goods and ideas since man discovered the advantages of exchange has created vital interdependence between men and between nations. Our fumbling in the past makes future wisdom possible.

Handwriting on Wall

More serious attentions for University students are not only desirable but unavoidable, just as they have been in Europe and Asia, because of national necessities.

College students will be accompanied in their more mature attitudes by a very helpful change in educational methods. More subjects will hinge upon a study of improvements on the present with a pertinent and lively reference to the past, and fewer studies will be primarily concerned with a dull and uncorrelated view of history.—Al Larsen.

At the Crossroads . . .

EDUCATION nears the crossroads as the United Nations continue to lose this war. Those who think the University is a long way from what it used to be may soon find that this "is only the beginning." Here, for example, is a plan to clear up the college manpower mess suggested by Harvard President James Bryant Conant:

Military authorities and the colleges would pick jointly top rank high school graduates for an enlisted training corps, limited by military quotas. Each enlistee dons uniform, draws basic monthly pay plus living allowance, would choose his own college. Four semesters for basic training follow under ROTC or college teachers. After that picked men stay in college for advanced professional or technical training, the rest would go directly into armed forces.

* * *

DRASTIC as it sounds, this plan (which leaders of the American Council on Education have approved) is conservative when compared to army and navy proposals. Here is their plan: Army and navy would pick students, prescribe their courses, eliminate all from the curriculum but technical and essential professional studies.

The two plans conflict basically on one idea: Who will run the colleges in war time, the army and navy or civilians? Although military officials intimate that all college men will be required for armed service in a not too distant future, it is certain that trained experts in technical skills are always in need. It is not a case of dodging service but of supplying an arsenal of trained men for war service for the long-term war this may well be. It is the double role the universities can play: To train men for armed service, to train men for technical service. Neither of the plans has received official sanction as yet. Still that crossroad may not be far away.

New Stars to Fly . . .

A rush order went out Thursday for more stars. These astral decoratives, however, are not designed for indirect lighting of evening skies. Theirs will be a position of even greater honor—the place of honor on the alumni service flag.

When the scoreboard for the alumni service contest went up yesterday at the Side for the first time, several scores were far above the anticipated. One hundred stars had been considered the probable peak for any one organization, but with six days remaining until the contest's end, five houses posted lists of over 70. Thus the rising demand for stars.

* * *

COMPILATION of the 681 stars represented on the scoreboard means a tough job tackled by the shoe string. Further listings will entail surmounting of greater obstacles. There are still eleven organizations unrepresented by figures on the board. Three of those are dorms, and some are among the largest houses on the campus. So anything is to be expected.

Originated as a publicity measure in connection with Homecoming, this campaign has turned into a campus-wide service activity. The information will be used time and again by the Alumni office, Old Oregon, and the Emerald. In times when address changes are so frequent and all records are being fast outdated, group effort of this sort is the only practical approach to maintenance of any semblance of order in records.

* * *

CONTINUED returns proportional to those of the first days of the contest will be indication that Oregon men are really at work, for this is no mere sweater-boy service that's being done. Information to be supplied includes: the name of the alum, the year of graduation, the branch of service, rank, and army address if possible. The task of checking on the validity of claims is in itself a huge one.

The house to whom the multi-starred flag is awarded during Homecoming will not reap the whole benefit from this effort. Their winning will merely symbolize the general campus gain. Their effort will merely be a part of the whole.

—J.A.W.

Mexico's Schools Lack Social Life, Says Native

By DOROTHY ROGERS

That the social atmosphere in Mexican universities is radically different from that in U. S. colleges, is the observation of Esiquio Narro, special student from Mexico.

"Mexican students lack the typically American custom of getting acquainted with one another," said Narro. "Consequently there is much less social activity in their college program.

Full School

"Students are refused admission to the universities of Mexico every year, because there is not enough room to accommodate them all," he said. "This is the reason Mexican students are so hard-working and ambitious.

"Because the people of my country see only those American students that tour Mexico, and not the real college life," explained Narro, "they usually ask, 'When do the Americans study?'"

The University of Mexico, where Esiquio took courses in Spanish and English, has the characteristic background of Mexican colleges. Its very old buildings, once schools entirely independent of one another, are scattered throughout the entire city. This lack of unity and compactness eliminates the campus

so important to universities of the United States, he said.

Experience

Narro taught in two private business schools before coming to this country. He explained that the Mexican requirements for teaching positions are lower than in the States, and added that the salaries of teachers are low, too, because the government cannot afford to pay more.

Requirements may be low for getting a teaching job, but the demands of the job itself are many. In rural districts besides teaching the students to read and write, a teacher must counteract and even try to improve sanitary conditions among the peasants.

Esiquio Narro, now working for his teacher's degree in Spanish and English here, declared, "I like Oregon very much. I hope I can soon go to see Crater lake and some of the famous Oregon scenery that I have heard about."