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Things Are Getting Better

Congratulations are in order to the administration because of their efficient handling of the registration and grading problem this term. This system marks just about a 100 per cent improvement over the confusion that reigned in the last weeks of fall term, and the anxiety that ushered in the winter term as students waited for their grades.

Exams last term were rough, but they were no rougher than the two exams per subject we struggled through fall term, while attending classes at the same time. That too is an improvement.

Considering the greatly increased enrollment this year, we can certainly ask no more than to pick up our grades on the first day of the new term. For our money that's good.

There is a feeling of smug satisfaction and achievement in the "shack," too as Emerald workers realize that these reforms are substantially those advocated in Emerald editorials fall and winter terms.

Remove The Motive

The letter published on this page concerning cheating in examinations is certainly timely and seems well-founded. We know of too many students who consider cheating evidence of an uncanny ability to put something over on a near-sighted or careless instructor. We've watched them operate, with a sort of insidious efficiency. And we sometimes wonder how those of us who plug along with some semblance of honesty ever manage to keep our noses above water when the curve grading system is used.

Cheating can perhaps be attributed to two causes: 1. a sort of small time bush league shifty-eyed dishonesty which gets a morbid boost out of stealing answers to exam questions; 2. a desperate attempt to make grades because of the over-balanced emphasis on grades in our educational system.

There probably is not much to be done about the backwoods dishonesty. It might be a form of kleptomania. You don't cure it—you efficiently hand the cheater his walking papers. There is no reason to tolerate that kind of student in this University.

But something can be done about the stress on grades. If education, not assimilation of information, honest or otherwise, is the purpose of an institution of higher education, then let us put the emphasis on education, not on examination papers. This would be the most effective method of removing the basic motive for cheating.

After watching the lawns get a good head start on an early crop of hay last term (the lawn mowers burned up in the warehouse fire), it was a pleasant surprise to return to a well-groomed campus. We are puzzled by one thing: what do they do with the cuttings? And we'd like to suggest that in the future, University of Oregon hay be shipped to Oregon State as a sort of spring term sign of goodwill to the farmers after the basketball season.

We note with some sadness that during rainy days the law school matchthrowers quit practicing. Now look, men, we won't have a good nitra-mural season unless you get those arms in shape. We suggest you try those super-special soak-them-in-water-and-they'll-still-light matches. With them, rain or no rain, no shyster could be arraigned for throwing a match.

Emerald Managing Editor Bill Stratton is disgusted. Last term he sent in a dime and boxtop for one of those nice walkie-talkie sets. The Kellogg company returned his dime with a coupon good for one boxtop, explaining that they were all out of walkie-talkies. We're sorry, son—try to get one of those atomic rings with "atoms bursting like crazy" inside.



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"Jacques is the wittiest artist in New York"

Telling the Editor

ABOUT CHEATING

For two terms I have tried to overlook it,—ignore it,—forget it,—even condone it. At last the evil has grown to be so obvious and commonplace that I feel "the time is now" to raise my voice.

Cheating has become a patron saint of the campus of the University of Oregon.

Oh yes, even now I can hear the snickers of derision: "What's this guy trying to foment?" "What does he mean,—cheating?" Stating my case simply, it is this: there are many students among us who are graduating from courses on knowledge that is NOT their own.

Most of those seem to have become such habituals that they no longer feel the need to be either sly or subtle but use such obvious tricks as: leaving an open text on the floor during a test; penning the needed notes on their wrists; asking their neighbor (who has to ask his neighbor) or even to pencilling notes on the walls of Villard, Rooms 7 and 8, the day before a test.

If the student, stupid enough to cheat, hurt only himself, his punishment would be well deserved and meted, but he also hurts the student who is here to learn. Why should a sincere student carry the stigma that a cheater brings to an institution? Who wants to graduate from an institution where even a jackass might receive a diploma?

Perhaps some of these parasites don't even realize that they ARE cheating: a few days ago, after a test, I remarked to a student sitting beside me that he shouldn't ask me questions about the test after the quiz was distributed, to which he replied with eager amazement: "Hell, what's wrong with that?" (Should that attitude attend classes at an institution of "higher" learning?)

There is little need in my dwelling on details that you already know so well. I would like to sum-up my observations in this manner: for this rampant cheating, on our campus the student is to blame for his ignorance in the matter of what he wrongs in himself and in those about him; and the majority of the instructors are to blame for allowing

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such tactics to be carried out while they look on in smug complacency.

Let me suggest this: if our staff and faculty will do nothing about this "polite" form of stealing, let us as students put our vaunted Honor System to work (which made such a splash on the front page of the Emerald last fall.) If there is something here in which we believe, let us fight for it! Many of us are bored with being just "half-proud" of our University.

A Vance Beckwith

ABOUT F.E.P.C.

I have just written to the representatives at the Statehouse in Salem in regard to your editorial of March 4th. Not that I thought the adoption of the F.E.P.C. law is vitally necessary, but on the contrary, because I believe that such a law merely adds unnecessarily to the ponderous inefficiency of our government.

First of all I want it known that I'm not a Bilbo fan or anything of the sort and I am not unaware of the stupid intolerance of racial discrimination, but I still can't favor the compulsory approach to the problem of discrimination.

Any compulsory provisions of this proposed bill will hinder progress towards solving the problem rather than achieve it. Few realize

how extensive these compulsory provisions are: they give anyone who is refused or dismissed from a job the right to bring action against the employer, alleging some motive of discrimination because the applicant or employee is black, yellow, brown, Catholic or Jewish. Such motives are always possible to allege, and the question is left for decision to a board which is bound by no rules of evidence. It provides for an almost complete regimentation of employers!! Democratic??

Political tampering with racial relations in Oregon is absurd. It will do the minority groups more harm than good by creating bad racial and religious feeling. Progress against discrimination must be made gradually and must be made by voluntary cooperation and education.

John Bingham

ABOUT SENATOR MORSE

Has anyone noticed the excellent work being done in Congress by Wayne L. Morse, senator from Oregon?

In his pursuit of an honest, conscience-guided, and extremely active political course he has given the hot-foot to both the reactionary Republicans and the radical Democrats. Uninfluenced by traditional party policies which have, in the past, retarded the action of both parties, Morse is following the dictates of his conscience and the wishes of the PEOPLE he represents.

The vigor with which Morse involves himself in every conceivable controversy marks him as both a fighter and a hard worker. The reserve and care he has exercised in important decisions show his concern with careful consideration of evidence from both factions in any commitment.

Evidence of his rebellion against rigid "party lines" was his recent verbal exchange with John Reece, a typical puff-ball, old style reactionary, who now "leads" the Republican party. Reece called for more "unity" among Republican party members, appealing especially to such progressives as Morse to come back into the fold (sometimes called groove, or rut.)

If honesty and intelligence are needed to pull politics out of the quagmire, we need men like more. Oregon (and the Republican party) can be proud of him.

Vic Doherty

Editor's note: So can the University of Oregon.

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