

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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Why Not Scrap Hell Week?

There's a trend on America's college campuses today that we hope spreads to the University of Oregon.

We refer to the idea of substitution a fraternity "Help Week" for the traditional hazing of "Hell Week."

Nationwide publicity has been given recently to the policy adopted by inter-fraternity councils in several universities of having fraternity pledges join in constructive community work as a pre-initiation project instead of putting them through a series of antics which at best accomplish nothing constructive and at worst may do considerable harm.

We list but two examples: at the University of Maryland, the first project of the "Fraternity Help" program was the clearing of an unsightly vacant lot. Other proposed projects are the building of playgrounds for children and the renovation of an old library.

At San Jose State, pledges and active members joined to paint the First Congregational church "as a step in the direction of changing fraternity hell week into help week."

It's at San Jose State that Oregon's IFC President Dick McLaughlin is now attending a regional IFC conference; before he left, McLaughlin told us that he expects that the "help week" idea will be one of the major topics of discussion.

One of Oregon's fraternities inaugurated the "help week" idea last year with a pledge project at the Children's Hospital—but didn't dispense with hell week.

We may be wrong, but we've always understood that the only reason advanced by fraternities for hell week was that "the boys ought to go through something to make them appreciate initiation" and "this brings the pledge class together." It seems to us that this end could be accomplished—and accomplished better—by working together on something constructive rather than destructive.

The matter of "help week" will undoubtedly be coming up in IFC soon, as the end of the term approaches. It is to be hoped that Oregon fraternities will seize this opportunity to rid themselves of an old bogey and join in a progressive national movement toward useful community service.—G. G.

Forced Attendance No Solution

"Lets require them to attend."

That seems to be the uppermost solution in many students minds to the problem of poor attendance at group, or campus-wide, functions.

Illustration: The other day ASUO cabinet members were discussing the poor student turn-out for anniversary events, and student assemblies in general. They agreed it would "look better" for the school if more attended.

How would they promote attendance?

Compel the freshmen to attend, as they do at OSC, said one student. Reasoning here was that if students have to attend when they're freshmen they'll probably still be going when seniors.

Make assemblies a "house function" and pair living organizations, said another. The large turn-out for rallies was used as an example. Living organizations, some by means of fines, compel their members to attend rallies.

Have each living organization sing songs when the students are assembling. In this way, the contributor reasoned, students would have to come because they'd want to make a good vocal showing.

We think they've got the wrong approach. Simple human nature makes persons dislike things they "must" do. There's enough of this in University life anyway. Students must go to classes, read textbooks, take tests, and so on.

Students will turn out for something that interests them. Whether they should or should not be interested in these campus events is beside the point here. They obviously aren't. And no one's going to change the situation by telling them they must be interested.

If student officials feel obligated to make it "look better" for the school by trying to increase attendance, they might investigate ways of promoting the assemblies. Or, perhaps a poll could be taken to discover what students don't like about the hour, or content, of programs.

Bill Carey, ASUO president, said, "Compulsory attendance would not be effective." We agree wholeheartedly.

-- Letters to the Editor --

Let the Bonfire Burn

Emerald Editor:

I am now accepting contributions which will be used to repair the shattered morale of the Misses Hart and Thurston, whose woebegan letter appeared in Wednesday's Emerald.

These ladies, who are members of the Homecoming Publicity committee, wove a heart-rending tale of hardships and difficulties which would hard to surpass anywhere. Thus, because of their suffering, students should give up "one more night of sleep in your own bed; one more chance to nibble at the Thanksgiving leftovers; a Friday night with no closing hours other than those designated by your parents."

Meanwhile those poor ladies have to stay and suffer on the campus, although this has come about through their own choice, as I presume they weren't forced to serve on the commit tee.

The Misses Hart and Thurston then attempt to threaten the students with a warning about a projected OSC burning of our bonfire. We had our fun, let the OSC students have theirs.

In conclusion, I suggest that all Oregon students remain on the campus during Christmas vacation and have a cozy little dinner together. Why should we all go home for a lousy two weeks for mere animal comforts when we could stay here and prepare our studies for winter term?

Martin Meadows

Mad at 'Madwoman'

Emerald Editor:

"The Madwoman of Chaillot" struck this particular author like a bulldozer crunching over a heap of rotten cabbage. After viewing this far from notable dramatic abortion, one is prompted to become either abusive and belligerent or to maintain a polite and disgusted silence.

However, having a social as well as an aesthetic conscience I am forced to express my opinions on this subject. Preliminary to attempting a clarification of the plays failings, I might mention its only virtue—its brevity. The affair that took place on the stage of the University Theater Friday night has managed to accomplish for the drama what the puritan revolution in England and the Watch and Ward society in Boston had failed to do. That is to demonstrate forcibly that the way to kill the theater is to let it kill itself.

Unfortunately the lighting and the acoustics were so excellent that one could see and hear everything that was said including the conversation among the members of the cast backstage, which was a good deal more interesting than the sentimental tedium presented

in the guise of dialogue. The only thing the actors did well was get in each other's way, except for the Madwoman who also got in her own way.

The high point of this evening, for this viewer, occurred when a minor member of the cast, either because he was drunk, blind or disgusted with the whole thing stumbled (or was tripped) back stage and destroyed a section of the scenery.

About the play itself, little can be said that is printable. "The Madwoman of Chaillot" is fantasy. It is composed 80 per cent of berry sentimentality and 20 per cent of vulgarity. It would, in all probability, have been no more enjoyable if the proportions were reversed.

Giradoux, the author, who is dead and cannot defend himself, undoubtedly intended the Madwoman as a comedy. That the University Theater also had this purpose in mind is impossible to determine on the basis of their presentation.

Giradoux, who was never much of an intellectual giant, has managed to say in two long, dull, talky acts what the average retarded idiot usually coughs up in two minutes under five grains of sodium amytal.

I feel that the University Theater, even under the skillful direction of Mr. Robinson, will have a good deal of trouble in ever approaching the level of The Madwoman in its future production.

Allen Hertzog

On Treatment of Islam

Emerald Editor:

I have attended a number of talks and discussions by Dr. Means of the religion department on Island in the present-day Moslem world. It appears that he is trying to emulate Dr. Mayo who wrote the book "Mother India." We, in our countries, refer to that book as "The Report of a Sewer Inspector." If Dr. Means' talks are published in book form I think we will detect the same familiar odor.

Muzharul Islam, Pakistani student

From the Morgue...

30 YEARS AGO

Nov. 8, 1921—Every student is asked to send letters of a "personal and appealing nature" to alumni inviting them back for the Homecoming celebration.

20 YEARS AGO

Nov. 8, 1931—Tentative plans to join with the Register Guard and Eugene merchants to have citizens tidy up their lawns along principal streets during Homecoming weekend are in process of development.

There's No Easy Way Out



Our Visitors Speak...

Germans for West But Ask Unification

By Franz Cesarz

(Ed. Note—Franz Cesarz, editor for local politics of the Berlin newspaper Der Tag, is now enrolled as a special student in the school of journalism. He here discusses "Should There Be a Western German State?" This will be the International Relations club's topic of discussion at 7 p.m. today in the Student Union.)

It's quite difficult to write on this topic set for the Thursday discussion. A German certainly will have only one answer. "No," there should be no Western German State. What the Germans want is the reunification of their divided country as quickly as possible.

The Germans want this since the unfortunate division in May, 1945, which meanwhile is commonly seen as one of certain reasons for the East-West-conflict which since that time has overshadowed the world and destined its fate.

The reunification of Germany can be of great importance for the world peace. In any case world peace will not last without a united Germany. Besides Korea and besides the Austrian State Treaty (instead of a "Peace Treaty") the German question is the big touchstone for Soviet good will to settle the world problems finally without a new war.

Germany is with the West. There is no doubt and no reason to doubt in her future attitude. That's of value for all of Germany. And no Western German can surpass the desire of all the Germans suffering under Eastern terrorism in the Soviet zone behind the Iron Curtain. But the reason Germany is with the West and will further be is her belief in world peace, guaranteed by the greater strength of that side of the divided world, which has the better aims. But the Germans also recognize that world peace can't be maintained without Russia's participation.

The Germans are with the West; simultaneously they never will agree in two Germanys one with the East and one with the West, because they don't believe that such a status would advance the West.

They see it as question of humanity first and of political sense secondly to do not close the door of a possible solution of the German unification problem before the Soviets themselves close that door. The Soviets never will do that unless they want war. The world powers and the West-German-Government should not succumb to the present temporary status with a definitive status which everybody knows will be the germ for later trouble.

The Germans generally don't want separate peace treaties with either present German state. The main-problems of the future treaty will be in the East, for instance the border-problem. How could that problem be solved in a sufficient way for all sides, if they are to get settled by Moscow on the one hand and its compliant instrument in Eastern Germany, the "Grotewohl-Cabinet," on the other hand.

If the West wants peace with Germany it is first of all easy to give West Germany a real peace status now. That will not anticipate a subsident treaty and will rise the hope and belief of the Germans in the Soviet Zone.

That all might sound a bit selfish. Most Germans belong to the West with all their heart. Germany claims to be an important part of the West, particularly culturally and ideologically. Politically she already has proved it by nearly eliminating the Communists in the past elections. But how it may be, the evolution after World War I which finally led to Hitler, not without consistency, has taught us that the wisest policy is that which considers the reasonable selfish interests of the peoples. That is good for all peoples.

Thus, "No separate Western Germany."