

Oregon Daily EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD is published Feb. 4 thru 8, 11 thru 15, 18 thru 22, 25 thru 29, March 10, Apr. 2 thru 4, 7 thru 11, 14 thru 18, 21 thru 25, 28 thru May 2, May 6 thru 10, 12 thru 16, 19 thru 22, and May 26 by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year, \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed page on the editorial are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or of the University. Initialed editorials are written by the associate editors. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor.

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Our Visitors Speak...

Greeks Make Campus Policy; No One Else Will

By Gerhard Zahn

You will see fraternities and sororities are making the campus policy an American student who stayed for a while in one of the little dancing-clubs in Paris told me. I still had this conversation in my mind when I came to the University of Oregon. After being introduced to some members of fraternities and sororities I personally found out what all the talk against fraternities and sororities is about.

Indeed the American student in Paris was partly right. Fraternities and sororities are making campus-policy, but not because they are eager to do it. It's just because there are no other people who want to prepare for things like Homecoming queen and various other activities. Students in the dormitories are not as unified as the fraternities and sororities are. It is, therefore, easier for a fraternity leader to secure action than for a president of a dorm who has not enough personal contact with all the fellow students around him.

Some people have asked me about my opinion of the fraternities and sororities. They asked me if they are always interested in foreign policy and if they are, in my eyes, broadminded enough to talk about other peoples' problems.

Without the slightest doubt I can say that I never found more interest in the destiny of the Germany of today than I did in fraternities and sororities. I have spoken with fraternity members—some of them veterans of the Korean war—and it was sometimes hard for me to answer all their very good

questions about Europe in a correct manner.

Fraternities and sororities are typically American institutions. In no other country will you find them. But the existence of fraternities and sororities is justified more than ever before. I'm quite sure if German universities would have a campus we would introduce things like fraternities and sororities.

I'm living in a dorm at the

University of Oregon and I've met fellows who are not in a fraternity and girls not in sororities, and they are nice and well-educated. There is no difference if you live in a fraternity, sorority or dorm. It's up to the character of the student. "Non Scholae sed vitae discimus," a Latin proverb, says that the student is not learning anything for school only but for his life.

A Political Workout

Warren today.
Hoffman and Kefauver Tuesday.
Stassen Thursday.
We're really getting a workout this week, politically speaking.

Three of the men—Gov. Earl Warren of California, Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn) and Harold Stassen, University of Pennsylvania president—are actual presidential candidates. Paul Hoffman, Ford Foundation president, is an Eisenhower supporter and has been mentioned as a possible nominee.

We're extremely fortunate to be able to hear these men speak now. What they say will undoubtedly influence our vote in the Oregon primary this Friday. (Too bad those of us voting by absentee ballot couldn't have heard them sooner.)

A lot of Republicans may be looking forward to hearing Gov. Warren at 1 o'clock today, especially those who aren't really too pleased with either Tait's foreign policy or the idea of having a military man for president.

Warren didn't do badly in our mock convention. If a third ballot had been taken, or if more of the second ballot vote changes had been allowed, we think Warren would have shown even stronger. And we don't think all the support came from California students.

These politicians want to talk to you just as much as you want to hear them. They're out after votes—your votes, in this case. So turn a critical ear. Ask questions.

Then, go out and vote Friday for the man you want for president.

A New 'Tameness' on Campus

Are college students taming down?
That's the conclusion reached by Robert Stein in this month's issue of U.S.A., a magazine published by the National Association of Manufacturers.

Stein, basing his conclusions on a survey of more than 100 colleges and universities, reports that a major change is taking place on America's campuses. Today's undergraduates, he says, are more serious, sober and hard-working than earlier students. An example is the decline of hazing and prank-playing in favor of constructive community activity.

"Unfortunately," the article comments, "an account of several dozen brawling, rioting students makes more dramatic reading than the story of 2½ million young men and women quietly and efficiently going about the business of learning."

Oregon students will agree—rather wryly—with the latter statement. It's always been a bitter pill to find stories of "riots," suspensions, etc., on the front pages of the state and national press while more constructive developments are relegated to the back pages of the Sunday edition.

Is the Oregon campus quieting down? Not to the point of getting dull, certainly, nor to the point where no pranks are played. But we have seen evidences of what Stein calls "sober purposefulness" gradually building up. There's the increased student interest in speakers, as exemplified in the lecture series and the Parliament of World Religions. There's the "Help Week" movement, which may be put-putting along on one cylinder but at least is getting consideration. And there's the project in which rah-rah spirit and educational experience could be combined—Operation Politics.

Oregon students haven't done anything like the project taken on by Wilmington college students in Ohio. Stein tells of their putting in up to 400 hours each in the construction of a \$200,000 dormitory; the free labor cut the cost to the school down to less than \$18,000.

We can't quite see anything on that scale happening here. But we have seen indications that this college generation is beginning to take itself, its education and its community responsibilities more seriously.—G. G.

Limits Note-taking Capacity



"Say, would you run down an' tell the janitor we're short one desk-chair?"

-- Letters to the Editor --

No ASUO Banquet

Emerald Editor:
As a present ASUO senator, it seems to me imperative that several points in relation to the proposed ASUO banquet to install "newly-elected officers" on May 14 be made clear and obvious at this point.

I cannot attend this banquet nor can, I think, any other ASUO senator mindful of his responsibilities and the facts in the case. The recent student body elections are being contested and until such time as a decision is reached on our part to install officers "elected" this spring, would be presumptuous and quite possibly invalid and illegal.

As ASUO senators, we have the responsibility and duty to hold those offices to which we were legally elected until such time as our successors shall be elected in a legal and valid election under the terms and in the manner prescribed by the ASUO constitution. Such is not yet the case, since grave and reasonable doubts remain and are multiplying that the recent elections were not conducted in such manner and under such terms.

We have no responsibility, right nor duty to hand over our offices to individuals whose legal claim and right to such offices are under question and of doubtful legality.

Our responsibility lies in quite an opposite direction. We can not legally nor rightfully participate in such a banquet, nor may we be removed from our present offices in any way until such time as the recent elections are declared valid, should they be, or until new and constitutionally

valid elections be held, should that be necessary.

In any event, those ASUO senators participating in the proposed banquet are doing so in disregard of and in opposition to the ASUO constitution under which they were elected and have served, and those "newly-elected officers" are preparing to take offices to which they are not, as yet, legally entitled.

This situation should be brought to the attention of every senator, as well as every other student on the campus, so they may act in accordance with or in opposition to the ASUO constitution as their individual sense of responsibility or irresponsibility propels them.

Arlo W. Giles
ASUO Senator

A Four-year College

(Ed. Note: The following letter by two University of Oregon students and the response of the editor appeared in a recent issue of the Portland State Vanguard.)
To The Editor:

In response to a letter which recently appeared in the Oregon Emerald written by a Portland State student, we would like to clear a few misinterpretations which certain students obviously hold.

The first misunderstanding seems to be in the way of financial difficulties. Oregon taxpayers could finance a new building for you, using the reason that Erb Memorial and Carson hall were afforded by taxes. This, of course, is entirely incorrect.

The Erb Memorial Union and Carson hall were both made possible through student fees, contributions and a bond issue being paid off from the board and room charges. The only state funds used were for the purchase

of the land. That is in answer to your first misunderstanding.

Secondly, and most important: the University of Oregon is not in the least worried about any immediate decrease in student enrollment if a four-year college were established in Portland. We have, in the past, established a favorable record in both scholastic and athletic ratings.

Thus we hope we have cleared any ignorance of the true facts which exists in the minds of your students.

Richard DuBosch
Charles Springer

From The Editor:

It is difficult for students who enter a ready-made four-year college equipped with rolling campus and many fine buildings to realize that those who are trying to establish a four-year college in Portland merely want a physical plant equipped with the essentials for an upper and lower division curriculum.

The board has already ruled that funds for a student union and other "trimmings" are to be supplied by the student body. But taxpayers paid for the classroom buildings at the other Oregon colleges, and it is their duty to support a Portland four-year school when it is established.

The present Lincoln high and Oregon Shipyards facilities will handle 4000 students, so the first problem is having a state-supported four-year college established in Portland by action of the state legislature. Portland State is not intended to provide competition for the other Oregon colleges, but to supply the opportunity for a complete college education in Portland to those who, for financial or other reasons, are unable to go elsewhere.