

Let's Get Our Money's Worth

Cutting down on activities appears to be only one reason, and perhaps not the main reason, for eliminating the Mortar Board and the Military Ball.

It's true that a cut in the activity load has been longly and loudly advocated by Student Affairs this term—notably by Mrs. Wickham. It's true also that a student sub-committee recommended a decrease in the number of major activities, and that dances in particular are time-consuming projects.

It has been estimated that to put on a successful Homecoming, Whiskerino, or Junior Prom at least 40 committeemen are needed. Each of these committeemen spend six to eight hours working on the dance. The general chairman and some committee chairman work practically full time on the project.

In view of the time and energy expended on the dance, then, it is reasonable to suppose that the results must be satisfying to the committee workers and to the school as a whole. A good dance must be a financial success.

The Mortar Board Ball and Military Ball have decidedly not been successful as crowd gatherers, and consequently have more often than not ended up in the red. Financial accounting of these two dances over the last seven years shows a steady deficit.

The Military Ball has never made money. In 1949-50 it lost \$800. That year the loss was so great that the University wrote-off some of its bill to Scabbard and Blade. The event has never lost less than \$150, and in 1952 the honorary was left with \$250 in unpaid bills.

Mortar Board has been luckier, but the trend is against them. Since 1947 the girl-take-boy dance has regressed from a \$600 profit, to a \$250 deficit. The last two years it barely broke even.

The Junior Prom and Homecoming lost money only once during this period, the Whiskerino record just about balances with this year's receipts not totalled yet, and the Senior Ball ended up in the red five years out of the six.

Dick Williams, student union director, said that although the Senior Ball is a consistent money-loser, he thinks there should be at least one major dance during Winter term. In the case of the class dances, Williams said, there is a good chance that the deficit can be made up.

When a group as small as Mortar Board or Scabbard and Blade loses two or three hundred dollars, however, the problem of paying the bills takes on major proportions. In the case of Mortar Board, where proceeds are designated for other causes, the effort of a money losing dance is wasted.

Oregon is not the only school whose all-campus dances are failures, according to Williams. He said it was the opinion of student union directors all over the nation that there was a trend away from the big dance.

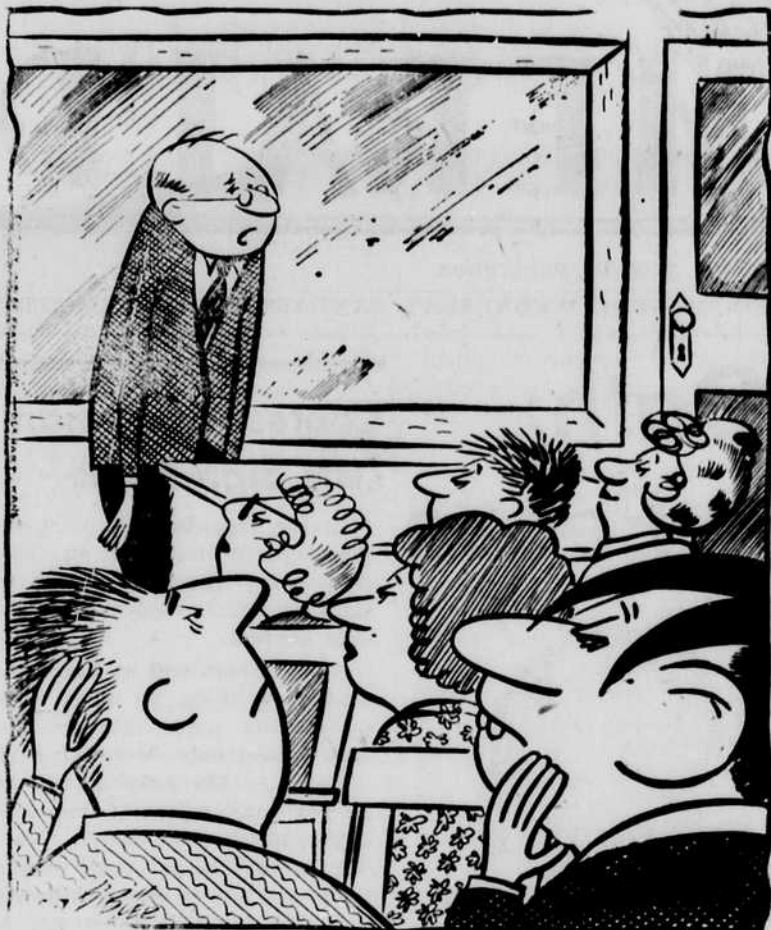
Although most dances made money in 1946 when enrollment was at an all-time high, you can't correlate success with enrollment, according to Williams. He said the University of Minnesota has the same problem we have.

The orchestra doesn't matter either, Williams said. Oregon pays less for big name bands than larger schools, and a small band doesn't mean a small crowd.

Since there is such a trend, and since figures don't lie, we feel that the Student Affairs committee made the only practical decision, and the wise decision. The average student has too little time to waste the major part of three weeks on an activity that doesn't pay off. A dance that flops is a disappointment to all.

We pay for our dances. And we want our money's worth. (H.J.)

A New Twist



"Do any of you remember where I was when my lecture was interrupted—I've given it so many times I wasn't listening."

WITCH HUNTS ABANDONED

Legion Backs Freedom

By E. A. Van Natta

The Oregon Department of the American Legion deserves and has received considerable praise as a result of its declaration against "negative" loyalty oaths and school investigations. In taking such a position the state organization has served the best interests of education and of the community as a whole.

Also it has set an example, which if observed by Legion groups in other states would go a long way in reducing the amount of "loyalty" hysteria which continues to grow throughout the nation.

Important Role

The American Legion is the strongest veterans' organization in the United States today and one of the most powerful of the political pressure groups. By means of propaganda and lobbying it has played an important role in aiding war veterans to receive such benefits as bonuses, pensions, and rehabilitation for the disabled.

The Legion has also taken an active interest in national and local problems such as foreign policy, national defense and internal security; problems which are not peculiar to veterans alone but which concern the entire public. As an organized pressure group the Legion has as much right to its interest in these problems as has the CIO or the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Witch Hunts"

All too often, however, the Legion, especially when participating in the question of internal security, has either been the initiator or heavy supporter of some rather notorious "witch hunts," particularly in the field of education.

As a result of its actions in numerous cases throughout the United States the Legion has given the impression, whether intentional or not, that it has a corner on "Americanism," its interpretation, and preservation.

Furthermore, the Legion, like

so many other pressure groups and individuals throughout the country, has given heavy support to the paradoxical idea that democracy can be preserved by limiting it.

In other words, civil liberties should be denied those in our midst who would, if they came into power, do away with such liberties altogether. This was the reasoning behind the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 which the Legion gave full support.

No Arbitrary Norms

Such reasoning if carried to an extreme would only play into the hands of totalitarian ideologies while democracy would more than likely disappear.

Democracy in the United States cannot be preserved by setting up arbitrary norms for "Americanism" and then, either through legislation or through the actions of a committee of vigilantes on Americanism, attempt to class as "un-American" or "subversive" every deviation from those norms.

Faith Necessary

The preservation of democracy depends upon the faith that all of its adherents have in it as a positive force and upon their own ability to judge what is or is not "subversive" without the aid of an a priori judgment by any one organization or individual.

The policy-makers of the Oregon branch of the American Legion have shown that they have that kind of faith in democracy and have acted accordingly.

A South Dakota State college coed tells of her experience during registration. It seems things were going smoothly until she stepped into an especially long line. After a two hour wait, she reached—the men's washroom.



'Bowl' Mixer Set for Friday

There will be a fishbowl mixer this Friday in the Student Union. Campus clothes are in order for the no-date affair. Admission is free.

Coming up is the Lemon-Orange Squeeze scheduled after the Oregon-Oregon State game January 30. Music will be furnished by Johnny Lusk and tickets may be purchased at the dance. Admission price has not yet been announced.

Committee planning the mixer includes Donna Hill, arrangements; Phyllis Pearson, finances; Jerry Fargow, reservation; and Jackie Steuart, publicity.

Dancing, Browsing On Board Agenda

On the agenda for the SU Board meeting tonight in Student Union 103 are: a definition of the area of the browsing room, discussion on publicity by other organizations at SU sponsored events, announcement of the committee of the whole meeting and re-examination of the dance instructions.

Roosevelt Story Showing Tonight

"The Roosevelt Story," the official film biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt, will be shown tonight at 7 in 207 Chapman. There will be no admission charge.

This documentary screen story covers over forty years of the late President's life. It is sponsored by the SU movie committee under the chairmanship of Ann McLoughlin.

Ceramics, Silver Featured in Exhibit

"Contemporary Design for Today's Home," an exhibit now on display in the SU art gallery, features imported and American made ceramics, glass and silver, donated by local merchants. Also on display are reproductions of contemporary paintings from the school of architecture and allied arts.

NEED FORMAL WEAR? RENT IT!

Whatever the formal occasion—wear fashionably correct clothes, at reasonable rental prices!

Fennells



Oregon Daily EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD published Monday through Friday during the college year except Jan. 5; Mar. 9, 10 and 11; Mar. 13 through 30; June 1, 2 and 3 by the Student Publications Board 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 on the editorial page 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 editorial staff members. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor.

LARRY HOBART, Editor
SALLY THURSTON, Business Manager
HELEN JONES, BILL GURNEY, Associate Editors
JIM HAYCOX, Editorial Assistant
AL KARR, Managing Editor

News Editor: Kitty Fraser
Asst. Managing Editors: Judy McLoughlin, Paul Keefe
Sports Editor: Larry Lavelle
Asst. News Editors: Laura Sturges, Jackie Wardell, Len Calvert.
Wire Editors: Lorna Davis, Andy Salmins, Virginia Dailey, Valera Vierra
Nat'l Advertising Manager: Carolyn Silva
Layout Manager: Jim Solidum
Classified Advertising Manager: Beverly DeMott

Dr. Leland A. Huff
Optometrist
43 W. 8th Ave Ph. 5-3725

MOTOR TUNE-UP AUTO ELECTRICAL

Martin Auto Electric Service

Phone 4-0133

Calvin H. Martin 7th & Charnelton Eugene, Oregon