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Page Seven

'CARDBOARD CASTLE' UNDER FIRE Vets' Dorm Conditions Examined

By Joe Gardner **Emerald Assistant News Editor**

Since their construction on campus in 1946, the Veterans' dormitories have been ridiculed by the students living in them, defended by the administration as the best that can be expected for a "temporary structure" and called by fire officials a possible menace to fire-safety.

Lester Barker, Eugene fire marshal, Thursday morning said Eldon Winkley, deputy state fire that the buildings difintely fall short of the minimum fire requirements of the city building code in called for a complete fire-safety many respects. Among the specfic inspection. charges leveled by Barker against incombustible doors from rooms to hallways and the sub-standard but a personal inspection by this condition of the fire doors in the halls.

He also stated that fire insulation in the corridor walls and ceilings is sufficient to withstand only a 15 minute blaze. The require-

'I LOVE YOU'

ment calls for one hour protection.

Fire Trap

Late in December, the Eugene Register-Guard ran a series of articles on Eugene firetraps. While not specifically calling vets' dorms a firetrap, the newspaper did include a story on the poor fire conditions that prevailed in the buildings. A reporter accompanied by marshal, made a tur of inspection at that time. Winkley subsequently

The stories of succeeding freshthe dormitories were the lack of man classes about the so-called "Cardboard Castle" are amusing, reporter last week failed to reveal some of the charges made against the buildings. Many of the defects so often attributed to vets dorms were noticed, however,

The buildings, originally used in

Portland shipyards, are of pre- ture of 165 degrees has been opens directly on the outside. fabricated plywood construction. Heat flues running the length of the halls are littered with paper and dust, a decided menace to fire-

safety according to Barker. No special fire precautions were observed in the rooms used for runs the entire width of the buildironing. Windows in the doors of ing. these rooms which would permit passers-by to detect the presence of fire were suggested in the Register-Guard article, but they have not been added. Also, according to one resident, only one fire drill was held during fall term.

Fire Doors Slide

unit into three parts were said to be out of order by the Register-Guard. Such was not found to be checked slid open easily when re- residents. leased. They are fastened shut by heat fuses which are designed to release the doors when a tempera-

reached.

combustion of wood requires a 400 degree temperature, smoke and gas fumes alone would be sufficient to break the fuses. Fire insulation at the point of the doors

H. P. Barnhart, director of dormitories, stated that the University has in reality not received much criticism of the buildings from the Eugene fire department. All the recommendations of the fire marshal have been taken care of and an attempt has been made The fire doors separating each to comply with all the necessary codes, he said. Greatest concern Barnhart, is the tampering with the case last week. All the doors the fire alarm system by dorm

Heat-activated

The alarm system at vets' dorms conists of heat-activated wires running the length of the halls and into individual rooms. Further fire precautions noted in the buildings last week were 15 fire extinguishers and two direct wire phones per unit. According to the Register-Guard article, a full-time watchman whose sole duty is to patrol the area is there each night. A total of 259 male students now live in the vets' dorms. There are

Valentine's Day American Holiday; **Foreign Nations Have Similar Days** day set aside for lovers in my coun- is called the Cat-Queen. If the girl no occupants above the first try," she said. "Last year was my breaks the barrel, she chooses a floor, and every first floor room

By Don Wenzl **Emerald Reporter**

Valentine's Day is as American as hamburgers, apple pie and ice cream. But the only ones who seem to remember it are little kids and advertisers.

It is not known exactly who made the first paper heart sent to a loved one inscribed "I love you." But interviews with foreign students indicate the custom as now observed is strictly American, and that it is spreading through America's wide postwar contacts.

Janine Etchepare said that in France , a predominantly Catholic country, the day is observed as a saint's feast day and is little different than any other feast day.

"Since the war," Lliss Etchepare said, "the custom has begun growth. Although it has not the commercial magnitude as here in the States, French merchants are pushing the day, and Feb. 14 is a great flower-selling day."

In Czechoslovakia, Iren Kudriavcev reports there is no such day as Valentine's Day.

first experience with Valentine's Day. The custom is peculiarly American and I love it."

"Valentine's Day is for the it ?" asked Judith Pederson of Denmark.

"We don't have a day exactly like Valentine's Day, but we do have a day called Fastelavns Dag. It can be on any Monday in February , and is primarily for the young."

Miss Pederson explained that Fastelavns Dag is something like Halloween in America. The children dress up in costumes and masks, and go around to all the houses asking for candies, cookies or money. There is no school on this day and time normally spent in school is spent in this Danish version of "trick or treat."

"In the evening, we have barrelbreaking parties," she said. "A wooden barrel containing a cat and Miss Kralik said the balls begin many gifts is set before a group of at 8 in the evening and last till five

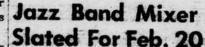
Cat-King.

"There is a gift in the barrel for cach person at the party," Miss Jazz Band Mixer Pederson added.

Elfriede Kralik of Vienna, Ausyoung, and young in heart ,isn't tria, say that Austria too has no Valentine's Day, but like Miss will be the theme of a band mixer Etchepare reports that post-war to be presented by music students American influence has caused an in Gerlinger hall Feb. 20. Followincrease in flower sales on February 14.

"From January 1 until the night before Lent is just one big party in Austria," Miss Kralik said. "The tempo quickens to get all the partying done in the last three days and Dick Ramsdell, graduate stubefore Lent. These days are called dents in music, will give a sympo-Fasching Dienstag - days before sium on modern dance music. The the fast days of Lent.

"I used to go to a ball at least every other night during the party season," she stated. "There were balls every night during the Ball band, dixieland and combo groups. season. One goes to so many parties, you are glad to see the Lenten season arrive.



"Experiments in Modern Jazz." ing the program, a small combo will play for dancing.

Dean Theodore Kratt of the music school will begin the program with a speech on the "Outlook for Bandsmen in 1953." Dick Stuart rest of the program, under the chairmanship of Robert Moore, sophomore in music, will consist of arrangements for large dance

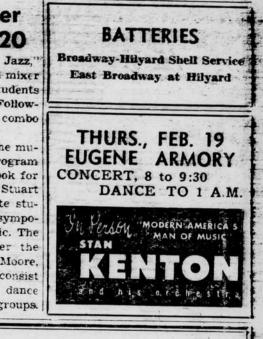
Since, according to Barker, the place vets' dorms by 1955, stated Barnhart. Construction of a new men's dormitory is first on the priority list of non-state financed buildings. "In the meantime, the University will do everything within its power to keep vets' dorn's safe for student occupancy," said+

Prof to Attend Drama Confab

Howard Ramey, instructor in speech and technical director of of the administration, according to the University theater, will attend the Northwest Drama conference at the University of Washington in Seattle, Thursday through Saturday. He will represent both the University and the University theater.

This is the first time in five years that the conference has not been held on the UO campus. Representatives of amateur or-

ganizations from ten Northwestern states will meet and discuss toptopertaining to all phases of theater ork at the confab. The program will feature speakers from all fields of the theater including high school, university and college, civic and community, and children's theater.



"I can't remember any particular

Carson to Hear KWAX on AM

Plans are now under way for the installation of a transmitter which will enable Carson hall residents to pick up campus, radio station KWAX over regular AM radio sets.

According to Elwood Kretsinger, assistant professor of speech, this is part of a long-range program to wire all dormitories on campus with a direct line from the broadcasting station that can pick up all KWAX programs on a frequency of 880 kilocycles. Completion of the Carson wire will be made by next month.

The transmitter itself is being built by Kretsinger at a cost of aproximately \$200 from a KRO gift fund. Commercial transmitters of the same size cost \$1800. This is to be installed in one of the steam tunnels leading to the dormitories from the physical plant. Work on the project was begun three weeks ago.

Emerald Classified ads bring results.

to break the barrel with a wooden bat."

Miss Pederson said the barrelbreaking can be compared to the chooses a girl to be queen and she small gift.

young people. They line up and in the morning. "Each boy is to each take his or her turn at trying dance with each girl at least once before, and once after midnight, or he isn't considered to have good manners," she said.

At each party a girl with her Mexican pinata at Christmas time. ticket is given a small gift like a If a boy breaks the barrel, he scarf, handkerchief or some other

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