

# Oregon Daily EMERALD

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## Sophomore Honors

What's in an education for modern America? Has mass education really lowered the standards of learning in our public schools, colleges and universities?

In seeking to supply the basic fundamentals of education to all youth, is modern education forsaking the true goals of education? Are the surveys that indicate that modern youth, with a high school diploma, can't read, write or spell correctly an indication that American scholars are taking the wrong road for mass education?

Or is there a happy medium where classes can be adapted to the average mind, while at the same time supplying enough initiative to the bright student and enough additional help to the slow scholar that the nation benefits socially, politically, economically from a high literacy rate?

We think the University of Oregon is correctly seeking the answer through a program established here last year—sophomore honors for lower division students who indicate the ability to do better than average in the college classroom.

Sophomore honors presents a program designed for a strong liberal arts education during the first two years of college. Classes included are literature, history, social science, biological science and physical science. By the end of the second year, when honors are awarded, the student must have completed four of the five honors courses.

Looking at statistics, during the first year of the program, 45 per cent of students eligible participated in honors courses. This year participation has been boosted to 55 per cent. These figures indicate a need for this type of program and they also prove that the need can be fulfilled.

Seventy sophomores are going into their second year of honors with 125 freshman participating in the program. Compare this year's 70 sophomores with the 90 freshmen enrolled last year. Fewer honors students are dropping out of the program than the medium of average decrease in class enrollment from the freshman to sophomore year.

In viewing any statistics, we must look not only at the available figures but, behind those figures for their true meaning. Percentage of participation may seem low, until we consider the number of students entering professional schools who cannot work in a liberal arts course because of their tight major course schedule.

The instigators of the Oregon honors program are not content to rest on their success. Instructors feel they now are just beginning to find the correct methods of teaching such courses and the whole program is definitely still in the experimental stage.

There is still some dissatisfaction with the method of comprehensive examination upon which the honor rating is based. All of which indicates that sophomore honors is a progressive program which can and will adapt to student needs and problems as they arise.—(E.S.)

## DG's To Hold Y Soph Desert

Sophomore women will hold their second YWCA-sponsored desert tonight at Delta Gamma, according to Donna Buchanan and Carol Huggins, sophomore cabinet social chairmen.

The desert will last from 6:15 p. m. to 7:30 p. m., and co-hostesses for the affair will be Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Delta Pi.

All sophomores are invited to attend the desert, and plans for the sophomore "Skip Day" as well as the service project of the cabinet will be discussed, according to Miss Buchanan and Miss Huggins. A charge of 10 cents per person will be made for refreshments. Tickets may be obtained from living organizations Y representatives, or at Delta Gamma tonight.

## Debaters Place

A University of Oregon debate team placed second in the annual far west tournament of the Western Speech association at Fresno, Calif., last weekend by winning six out of eight debates.

Donna DeVries, freshman in liberal arts, and Bruce Holt, sophomore in speech, received individual cups for second place after losing to Los Angeles City college in the final round of the tournament. The University received a plaque for the place winning.

Miss DeVries also made the finals in oratory and Phil Cass, sophomore in economics, reached the finals in extemporaneous speaking.

A second University debate team of Cass and Don Mickelwait, junior in economics, lost out in the preliminary competition.

## The Art of Dropping Courses



"Hello, Registrar? Miss Slauson has just withdrawn from 'cooking 281'"

## Letters to the Editor

**Emerald Editor:**  
 The Student Union Board is very much interested in the recent letters to the editor concerning the organization of a graduate student program. It has always been the policy of the board to present to the campus a varied program that will meet the student needs. The board has therefore set up a graduate program investigating committee to look into the possibilities of some kind of a gradu-

ate student's program here at the University of Oregon.

Bob Pollock has been appointed chairman of this committee, and he is now in the process of contacting the students who have written letters to the Emerald editor.

The board is definitely interested in the requests of graduate students concerning a "graduate club," and we are now doing everything we can to make this program a reality.

Andy Berwick  
 Chairman, SU Board

## Oregon Dads, Mom To Hold Joint Party

Oregon Mothers and Dads clubs of Lane county will hold a joint Christmas party Wednesday evening in Gerlinger hall.

A musical program featuring high school and campus talent is being planned by the two groups under the leadership of Mrs. O. K. Burrell, president of the Mothers club and Mr. L. L. Erdman, president of the Dads group.

Guests at the event will be Acting Pres. Victor P. Morris, Mrs. Golda Parker Wickham, dean of women, and Karl Onthank, associate director of student affairs.

## Primitive Christmases Discussed at Lecture

"Pagan Origins of Christmas" will be discussed at the Friday evening coffee hour at 7:45 p. m. in the Student Union browsing room. Dr. Paul B. Means, head of the religion department, will be the featured speaker. Coffee will be served after the lecture.

## Court Case ...

(Continued from page two)

Still another question arises—that of whether or not the court or the office of student affairs has the right to deduct a fine from a student's breakage fee. Farris said no, "the fee can only be touched pursuant to the provisions contained at page 60 of the bulletin of this University." The administration hasn't come out with a clear-cut stand on this subject, except to repeat that students may always let their cases be handled as a disciplinary case.

Orlando J. Hollis, dean of the law school, commented: "As I see it, student government is a game, but a good one. All students, when the administration gives them the opportunity, should take advantage of it. However, 'for the student who refuses to play the game, there must be an alternative course with a sound legal background.'"

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

● Quartets interested in participating in the Barbershop Quartet contest are to return interest blanks to the Student Union music committee as soon as possible, according to Lucia Knepper, contest chairman.

● The Student Union music committee will meet today at 4 p. m. Plans will be discussed for the All-campus Barbershop Quartet contest, according to Lucia Knepper, contest chairman.

● The Student Union movie committee will meet today at 3 p. m. in SU 302, according to Barbara Wilcox, chairman. Committee members should bring reports and suggestions for educational movies, Miss Wilcox said.

● Pre-nursing club will meet today at noon, in the Student Union according to Hanna Sue Hansen, vice-president. Group pictures will be taken and there will be a guest speaker.

● All students who have been already contacted or are interested in working on the Oregon caption staff will meet in the Oregon office, Student Union 308, at 1 p. m. today, according to Laura Sturges, Oregon associate editor.

● Kwama will not meet this week, according to Janet Gustafson, president. Members of the honorary will not distribute basketball programs this year, Miss Gustafson said.

● Members of the 1953 Homecoming general committee are to meet at 5:30 p. m. today in the Student Union for the annual Homecoming banquet. Transportation from the SU to the banquet will be furnished, according to Geri Porritt, who is handling the arrangements.

Committee chairmen who will not be able to attend the banquet are to contact Miss Porritt at Delta Gamma this noon.

● Student chapter of the American Institute of Architects will meet today at 7:30 p. m., in Architecture 107.

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