

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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We Need Action

Fire!
It's a word that can panic a crowd, frighten the most clear-headed, and stampede sensible men and women into a herd of fighting, crawling, terrified men and women. It's a word the meaning of which was brought home to us this past weekend in bold relief.

First, the near tragedy of the Willard school Friday must have shocked many Eugene parents into a realization that conditions of our schools and public buildings MUST be of vital concern to them as parents as well as citizens. We can only thank God and some quick thinking that no child died in that blaze.

And, growing out of an investigation instigated by the Willard school fire, we now learn that our own Vets' dorms are potential fire traps.

They've been with us for eight years now. That group of white buildings on the edge of campus, bordering Alder street, has seen a lot of campus life, despite the fact that they were initially set up as temporary structures.

Not only must we consider this from a standpoint of potential fire danger, but from the standpoint of deferred living for freshmen students. It is fine to say that deferred living gives the student a feeling for the University before he is distracted by house loyalties. But these freshmen students must be given equal living facilities before the program can be termed successful. The planned addition to Straub is definitely a step in the right direction. But deferred living has been with us for four years and it's time to step out of the planning stage.

The state board of higher education is considering bids for a new men's dorm to replace these, which have housed our "surplus" male student population for eight years.

During their last meeting, the board got hung up on prices submitted as bids for construction of the Straub addition. Seems the construction firms weren't submitting bids within the sum of money allocated for the construction. But the money comes from student funds paid into the University for room and board in other University housing units.

We look for no further delay in securing bids and beginning construction. We have, and have had for a number of years, the safety of 150 students lying in the balance.

But red tape can sometimes be endless and we know we can't afford any further red tape where freshmen men's living is concerned. It calls for action.

Freedom To Think

We're kind of lucky.

We complain a lot about the restrictions on this campus, but when we stop and take a good, long look around us we have to admit there's a lot of freedom.

Intellectual freedom we mean.

We can think pretty much the way we want to here—and we do. And we're permitted to have organizations that aren't strictly campus in nature. This is unusual, even in the Northwest.

For instance, Wednesday night the Young Republicans and Young Democrats are debating the question of a lowered voting age. They couldn't on a lot of campuses. At least the debate couldn't be sponsored by these political organizations.

Lots of administrations won't allow any such off-campus political groups to function.

And on some campuses we know of, students can't hold religious services of any kind within campus boundaries. Such events as the Universal Student Day of Prayer would be "out-lawed."

Oregon students as a whole tend to be a group of individuals. Even members of Greek letter organizations, traditionally thought to be regimentalized to a great extent, are less "regimentalized" here than on many campuses.

And the intellectual freedom extends to the faculty—or perhaps that's where it begins. There's no negative loyalty oath at Oregon. We doubt that there ever will be.

Several of our faculty members including new president O. Meredith Wilson have gone on record as opponents of "McCarthyism."

This we like very much.

Some residents of the state think Oregon is a "hotbed of Communism"—we don't, we know it isn't.

But here you're free to say what you want. To discuss issues of the day openly. Isn't that one of the best possible ways to discover the truth the main purpose of education?

We're lucky. We're still allowed to think. —(J.W.)

Time Grows Shorter



Campus Comment

Dixie Chapters Influence Discrimination, Frear Says

By Sam Frear
Emerald Columnist

While in the Army, I met a true Mississippi gentleman, an alumnus of the University of Florida. It seems that this Southerner was very proud of an incident occurring at the national convention of his fraternity held several years ago in the Sunshine State.

During the course of the convention, a member from the north made the customary motion that discriminatory clauses in the fraternity constitution be revoked. The Southern chapters evidently come to these conventions anticipating such action, and they had a rebuttal prepared.

A blond headed Georgian, ("My God, he was an aristocrat") was recognized and he told "them yankees" that if "niggers and the rest" were admitted into the fraternity, then they, the southern chapters, would "secede" from the national organization.

The motion was never taken to vote and the minority managed to win again. It may be significant that many fraternities originated in the South, and perhaps people like "Mr. (or Miss) Name Withheld by Request" should take this into view.

The reason for this anecdote is to silence a few independents like this person who are all too obviously anti-Greek without knowing what they are talking about. Of course, the obvious rebuttal would be, "Let them secede," but I think even the most ardent independent can visualize the consequences to a national organization if this were allowed to happen. A comparable thing

happened during the winter of 1860-61. There are other ways.

I do not mean to defend the policy of discrimination in fraternities, it is a definite liability to them. But several "Greeks" have mentioned that they, also, are concerned with this matter. The whole problem is: How concerned are they? Is there anything being done about it?, and Do they really want to do anything about it?

There is also the problem of guilt by association. Is a person, because he is a Greek, guilty of prejudice and discrimination? Is a negative support to these principles given by the mere fact of membership in these groups. I think the majority of Greeks have never given serious consideration to the motives of their fraternal organization.

Perhaps this alone is a solemn indictment against these people, for it may be that if Greeks did give more thought to the problem of discrimination, more would be done to erase it. However, in a problem of this sort, actions do speak louder than words, other peoples of the world cannot read our minds.

Today's Staff

Makeup Editor: Len Calvert
Night Editor: Valerie Hersh
Copy Desk: Gloria Lane, Harriet Hornbeck.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Deadline for items for this column is at 4 p.m. the day prior to publication.

● The Alpha Phi Omega pledge class will meet at 6 p. m. tonight in the Student Union.

● Harry Kent, graduate student in biology, will discuss "2, 3, 5 Triphenyl Tetrazolium Chloride as a Metabolic Inhibitor" at the biology seminar Thursday at 1 p. m. in Science 314.

● "Inside the Cell," a sound-colored movie concerning the regulation of enzymes, will be shown tonight at 7:30 in Science 16. The movie presents through animation and live-action photography the concepts of factors regulating enzyme action inside the cell.

● The faculty senate will meet at 4 p. m. today in the faculty lounge of the Art and Architecture building.

● The Hawaiian club will meet today in the Student Union at 8 p. m., according to Lorna Murakawa, president. Plans for "Luau" will be discussed, she said.

● United Independent Students will meet at 6:30 p. m. today in the Student Union. Financial matters and the proposed independent students poll will be discussed. President Hollis Ransom has announced.

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