

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

## Disappointing Grades

Pledge class grades of Oregon's 37 Greek living organizations for fall term were not, on the whole, edifying. Grade averages of the fraternity pledge classes, in particular, were disappointing.

Most significant achievement was scored by three of the larger sororities—Alpha Phi, Alpha Delta Pi and Kappa Kappa Gamma—whose averages ranked from 2.89 to 2.65. The phenomenal 3.22 of the Zeta Tau Alpha pledge class appears less noteworthy in view of the fact the pledge class is one of the smallest. All of the sororities were comfortably above a 2.2.

Barring the five leading fraternity pledge classes, the men's pledge grades look almost like a continuation of the women's grades on the downward scale. The highest men's house, Sigma Phi Epsilon, had a non-inspiring 2.441. Only five of the fraternity pledge classes were above 2.2

Averages for the five lowest men's houses, ranging from 1.969 to 1.417, are definitely shocking. A certain percentage of freshman men are expected not to make their grades. But for the average of an entire pledge class to fall below a 2.0 is not only disappointing but disillusioning.

Fraternities — and not just those with pledge class averages below a 2 point, but all the fraternities—might do well to reassess their relationships with their dorm-residing freshmen.

True, it is difficult, if not impossible, to maintain strict control over the study habits of the freshman affiliates who have such a tenuous connection with the Greek house. Yet, it seems some amount of study supervision must be forthcoming if the Greek houses are to perpetuate their organizations.

A total of 123 of the 284 men pledged this year fell below the University's minimum grade requirement. Many of these men will not be back next year to aid in fraternity development if some direction, some guidance is not given them in their scholastic endeavors.

The Inter-fraternity council is faced with a problem of the foremost magnitude. A tightening of "study table" rules for freshman men would seem to be the first order of business for the group this term.

## Higher Standards

The recent comment by Robert M. Hutchins, ex-chancellor of the University of Chicago, that American universities are becoming "high class flophouses where parents send their children to keep them off the labor market and out of their own hair," and his proposed solution pose an interesting question—and one which is basic to public education in a democratic society which stresses equality.

Hutchins' solution: National competitive scholarships such as those provided by the government in England, where "...80 per cent of the university students are being put through on scholarships." Hutchins sees government subsidization of bright but impoverished students as the answer to the problem.

Saying that most American universities are leaning toward "accommodation rather than education," Hutchins recommended competitive scholarships as the answer.

The idea of competitive, standardized examinations beginning at the lowest educational levels, in which students are gradually eliminated until only the really outstanding students are allowed to enter the universities, has been in practice in Europe for quite some time. Under systems like the German system, a student will know by the time he is 10 years old whether he has a chance for a college education, or whether he will go to a trade school.

But can the public education system of a

nation founded on the premise that all men are created equal put such a system into practice? Can some students, by virtue of higher scholastic aptitude, be singled out for government aid?

We say yes.

A part of this question has arisen in California, where the overcrowded state colleges are crying to the legislature for higher admission standards. It appears, however, that state colleges, if not the university, must accept all graduates of accredited high schools.

Why not offer help to those who deserve an education but cannot afford it? Why not raise the admission standards to keep the unqualified out of the colleges?

Hutchins said in his statement that college enrollments will double in the next 15 to 20 years, because of the current trend toward "accommodation."

It is a basic question, and one which brings in the root question: "Can the doctrine of equality work in actual practice?" Should all persons be permitted to attend college in the hope that a little education may rub off on them, or should just those who are qualified be admitted?

Higher admission requirements, more stringent standards while in college, and government aid to bright but impoverished students would be a step in the right direction. Eventually the "deadbeats" — those who are marking time, avoiding the draft, or enjoying an extended party while at college — could be eliminated, and the universities could perform their function in a way that would satisfy Hutchins or any advocate of liberal education for those who can make use of it.—(J.H.)

## Waldo Again

Has anyone seen Waldo?

The former mascot of the Oregon Theta Chi chapter apparently got lonesome during the Christmas vacation and decided the deserted Washington State college campus was no place to be. Where he went no one knows.

According to the WSC Evergreen, no trace of the huge mascot could be found when the Theta Chi brothers came back from vacation. An extensive search was started — "the dog pound, downtown stores and other places where a lonesome dog might go"—but still nothing.

We have great faith in Waldo. He must have heard that the squirrels were having the complete run of the UO campus since he left and decided to return.

He hasn't been seen on campus yet but we're sure that many students would be glad to see him back at his vantage point on the sidewalk between the men's pool and Friendly hall.—(P.K.)

## Footnotes

Last year an Emerald editorial called attention to the ivy growing, in a very traditional way, on the walls of our ultra-modern Student Union. The ivy was promptly removed. This year we've noticed moss clinging to the SU walls. Has the building really aged that much?

How do the men in charge of cleaning up the campus so religiously avoid the area around the SU? The Coop booklist and beer bottle mentioned in the Footnotes Monday are no longer there, but they have been replaced by a great assortment of candy wrappers, a Dixie cup, etc.

Brightly lighted marquee blazes forth each night in front of Mac court. Fail to see the advertising value of the huge neon sign in such an out-of-the-way place.

Our nomination for the most deserted spot on the campus: The library during the first week of the term.

## CAMPUS COMMENT

# New Pinball Craze: Spectators' Spectator

By Sam Frear  
Emerald Columnist

Recent comments in the world of sport concern the degeneration of several of our noble American sports. A list would include boxing and wrestling, football and basketball. And yet another "sport" is fading in the clutch.

And perhaps no loss.

Pinball never seemed a very thrilling way of making nickels disappear, and yet it has its devotees. But the day when these fans could play the game leisurely and alone, permitted to absorb the minor thrills without interruption, a rare wind. No longer is it possible for the plunger puller to have a sociable evening with a friend over a box full of lights in mere good natured competition.

Just for good clean fun and all that rot.

Nowadays, half the male student body is there to watch him go down in ignominious defeat before a tilt sign. Gone is the solitude, the good clean fun and all that rot. Pinball has become a spectator sport.

The easiness, the leisure, the "oh what the hell is a nickel" attitude is gone. No more care-free afternoons are allowed. The flipper fanatic is watched.

You can see it any afternoon down at The Side. One machine, and a mob of grunting, groaning,

chortling, giggling, and moaning spectators to unnerve the player.

If the player chokes he must endure endless comments on what he did wrong. If he tilts the machine a snigger emits from the assembled non-paying patrons. If he misses a free game by a mere million or so points they will pat him on the back and offer consolation.

It can be seen how this fan club can distract the poor sucker. It is one man versus the machine and several dozen spectators. He must be tense, eager, alert, and careful. He must not choke.

The fans seem to take a vicarious pleasure from watching someone else lose a nickel. If, however, the player achieves the minor plus ultra of the pinball world—a free game—a solemn and devout silence descends over the gaudy machine and its assemblage.

And it's no wonder when free games come so seldom.

It may all seem to be very nonsensical. But, after all, where can so many people be entertained by a nickel? It is a rather cheap way to spend an afternoon.

But we're making that nickel go a lot farther. After several sessions of watching the throng around a fantastic machine, we've found the whole thing fascinating. While pinball enthusiasts have their enthusiasts, we have become enthusiasts of pinball enthusiasts' enthusiasts. That is, we are spectators of spectators.

It's a memorable event. You ought to go down to the Side to watch them.



## Token of Affection



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