

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

For Better Spirit

We hope that the rally board is being extra careful in its screening of potential members of next year's board. The possibilities of the group will be outnumbered only by the difficulties and problems it will face.

Even the most enthusiastic of freshmen will admit that the state of Oregon spirit is poor, with the possible exception of Aggie games. Is this because of traditional rally procedures? Or are we in an unspirited slump?

Fall term failings in spirit may be charged to spirits and seating, for the men and women respectively. But what about winter term? And what is forthcoming for spring term?

Tradition alone is not enough, no matter how deeply ingrained in our webbed feet. We also need the prerequisites of a potentially good game — which implies a reasonably good team. Attendance was not such a problem during football season. A full house for a team that blows hot and cold on alternate nights, with no middle ground, hardly attracts a spirited crowd of basketball lovers. This is basic.

From there, we cannot but agree with Alex Byler in his proposals to improve school spirit. Byler has given considerable thought to the problem, and has come up with some constructive ideas. We doubt very much if the current board, or the new one, for that matter, will go along with Byler's ideas. They're not in line with traditional thought patterns on campus. They represent some original thinking.

He suggests abolishing selection of feminine members of the rally squad. We agree—partially.

We liked the comment of one father, here for Dad's Weekend, who said it was just like old historical times—"women dancing for men." Oregon's bevy of beauties make very fine half-time entertainment, but they add little to Oregon spirit. First, they direct their dances toward the women's section — with very little result. Across the way the men sit glassy-eyed, arousing themselves for an occasional whistle. One member of the rally

squad said that there would be a lot more spirit if students would join with them in the yelling "not just watch us." We agree. But when they put on such a floor show, who is to blame the students for just watching? It's rather distracting. The women are a very nice addition, but why not limit their functions to pure entertainment, rather than having them distracting from the yells.

Byler also suggested selection of a single yell leader—male. How effective this can be has been demonstrated at recent games. A single man would find it easier to command the respect and attention of a crowd—and would be less distracting from the yells.

Complaints have been frequent on the very yells themselves. Students are "jumped" with a yell they don't know, so as a result, just stumble through it. We like Byler's suggestion for short staccato yells—they are more peppy. They are also easier to follow and easier to learn. Possibly the board could agree on what yells are to be used and mimeograph copies of them for distribution in the various campus living organizations.

The athletic department has noticed the poor attendance of women at athletic events. May we venture two possible reasons for such low attendance? One: the women do not understand the game, thus do not enjoy it. Two: the prestige factor. In answer to the first, perhaps it would be possible for some group to sponsor an assembly for women at the beginning of each sports season. The coach and team members could explain some of the basic fundamentals of the game.

The second is more difficult to answer. We understand that at OSC women do not even consider missing a game—they're expected to attend every one. Just how they arrived at this state of affairs is uncertain. There is evidently no loss in prestige from going to the game with the girls.

We hope that the new rally board will give these and any other possible solutions an adequate hearing. Oregon need not be bound by hoary traditions, rather new ones should be developed to meet current needs. And right now we need some changes to develop spirit. — (S.R.)

CAMPUS COMMENT

Superstition Method For Cooling An Exam

By Sam Frear
Emerald Columnist

Everybody knows that education is broadening—in men as well as on females. And education is useful. Perhaps a conventional function is the liberation it achieves for the individual, freeing him from the fetters of superstition and ignorance.

Education sets no bounds for an individual's mental investigations, and it allows him to travel unhampered by ritual or dogmas or taboos through the hazards of contemporary existence. Fear of the unknown is cast aside.

Or at least it should be.

Just suppose what would happen around here if we let superstition invade the sacred ritual of, say, taking examinations. These, of course, could not be superstitIALIZED because they are reserved for the unknown or unexplicable. And everybody knows about exams although we admit there are times one can be hard put to explain them.

Think of how distracting life would be if you went into an exam with all kinds of ritual taboos to clog your mind. Suppose you scurried into the exam room hoping to get in seven and one half minutes of cramming before ye olde book bookies were passed out.

And just as you discover a munchy little paragraph you hadn't noticed before, someone knocks your book on the floor, anybody talk you into a big fat exclaiming, "If you don't know it now, you'll never know it."

This superstition could be try-

ing to the perfectionist.

Or suppose, once the exam got started, you were busily scribbling along, jotting down gobs of all kinds of misinformation you didn't know you knew. If say, a question asked the earth's circumference and you answered 25,000 miles, it's a good thing there isn't some old superstition that says "never erase an answer, the first one is always right." If that were so, half the people would flunk the exam, without the opportunity "to cut down the answer they just know is really right—the earth is 225,000 miles around.

Used to be that there was a belief held fervently in all quarters of the campus, that the first person to finish the exam either flunked it or passed it with an "A." Well, modern education has finally gotten this misconception all squared away. Everybody knows they get an "A." So nobody has to fidget when some wise guy leaves after writing only 20 minutes.

It's fate. And you can't argue with that.

Finally, after it is all over and you proceed wearily and according to your wont—coffeeward. Sitting there—relaxed, unambitious, carefree, gay, and all that—can be really keen, as they say in Yoncalla. But this jollity might be confiscated if superstition frowned on back batting and didn't let you say, "Boy, I think I really cooled that test!"

The reasons being, of course, that if you think you cooled a test, you really flunked it, and vice versa.

So, jusa don't fight the problem. Live with it and don't let anybody talk you into a big fat "C" when you know you could have a "B" just by doing all these things. Couldn't you?



Here's the poplin sports wear you saw at the YWCA Style Show last Sunday



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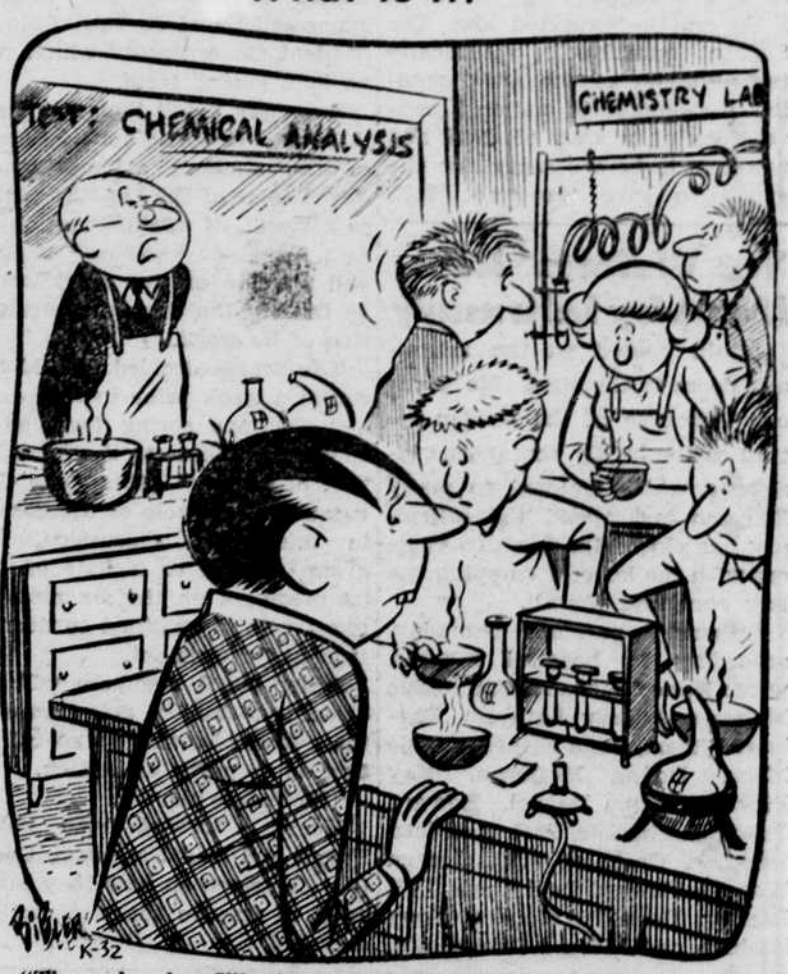
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What Is It?



"The only clue I'll give you is that it came from the Straub Cafeteria."

oregon **daily EMERALD**

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