

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

## Of Marriage and Athletics

With Oregon's first home football game of the 1955 season coming up, the subject of tickets is at hand. A lot can be said about tickets, prices, seating and athletic cards, but one sore point with a good percentage of the students is a special—or the lack of—ducats for student wives (or husbands).

It used to be that relatively few college students were married, and generally those were older and not too interested in athletics. But the great number of returning veterans after World War II changed all this and, with the high cost of living, the situation is much different today.

More college students than ever before have a husband or wife to help put them through school. A rough survey of Oregon enrollment shows that more than 900, or about 20 percent, of the nearly 5000 students enjoy wedded bliss. This group is no longer merely composed of grads, but rather of students in every class and school.

Before we write about the ticket situation, one should understand the reason for so many married students. It costs more to go to college than it used to, many take longer to finish their education and the trend is to get married younger, whether in college or not. Thus married students make up an important part of the campus population.

Many of these couples have to scrape a little to get through. Most of them like athletics as a means of relaxation as much as other students. Universities need to recognize this fact, if only for the possible good will involved and help them along.

This comes down to the athletic ticket situation. Oregon makes no provision whatsoever for special student wives tickets. But they can't in football because of a Pacific conference rule, initiated by the big southern schools, which says that student spouses must pay either half the reserved seat price or the general admission price, whichever is less.

That means that student wives will be paying \$1 for home football games, the general admission price, which is less than half of the \$3 reserved seat charge. Meanwhile, Oregon State student wives pay \$1.50, the general admission price there. Therefore Oregon student wives get a pretty good deal, but only in football.

In basketball, Oregon State for some years has had special spouse prices, which figures out at half the \$1.75 reserved seat price, 90 cents, the same as high school kids pay. But Oregon student wives have to pay \$1.20 general admission prices during the hoop season.

Last spring a study was made of the problem and the ASUO senate wound up by approving a ticket costing \$4.50 for student wives, good for all athletic events during a term. But nothing has been done since.

We think the athletic department, the school and the conference should make an attempt to help those who keep them in business. Surely student families need the small difference in money that would be saved from special spouse tickets. And they would also gain some needed good will.—(J.C.)

## Something More

One of the University's more cultural sides begins tonight at 7:30 in the browsing room of the Student Union when the first lecture of a series of browsing room talks will be presented.

Plans for the Wednesday night meetings for this term have already been announced. Included among speakers and discussion leaders are many department heads and distinguished professors. The lectures will include a variety of issues and subjects.

Last year student attendance at these lec-

tures was very poor, even granted that students usually have studies or dates on Wednesday nights.

Still one of the primary purposes of the lecture series is to offer the student, the faculty member and the town citizen something cultural and educational. This purpose is usually ignored by students in more ways than just not attending browsing room lectures.

Oregon has frequently been accused of being a party school and nothing more. Perhaps attending the browsing room lectures is an indication that students desire more out of college than parties, that they want to learn something more than what they are required to learn in their respective majors.

We hope so. And we hope there are more of them.—(A.H.)

## Slow Start

The new pre-draft age program of military training got off to a slow start Monday morning at six Southern army posts. The latest report shows that only 648 men 17 and 18 years old have signed up for six months of preparation for reserve unit assignments in lieu of being eligible for the two-year draft later.

The army's goal is to enroll 90,000 trainees by June 30. A plan that should be considered a comparatively good deal by hundreds of thousands of young men apparently isn't well understood around the country. Otherwise, it would seem that more than a few hundred would be enlisting.

Under the new law, waiting to be drafted no longer gives a man exemption from post-draft service with the active reserves. Draftees must follow their two years of full-time duty with a compulsory three years in the ready reserve.

The required six months at training camp is no snap. But it will be a strengthening experience that could be useful in other ways to those who try to make the most of their time in uniform. And there's no question that it's more convenient to those who don't want the two-year active duty.

When the draft calls start increasing this fall the number of men interested in pre-draft age training should begin to rise correspondingly.

If it does not, Congress almost certainly will be called on next year to provide some other method of building up the presently undermanned reserve forces.

## No More Beauties

We noted with interest this week an editorial in the Daily Texan of the University of Texas. The professional beauty is no more, they said. Hallelujah!

At Texas the committee on general student organizations ruled that their coeds may compete in only two contests each year. Here, nothing.

Nothing, that is, except bigger and better queen contests. It's gotten to be sort of an every-girl-a-queen routine. If you should miss out on Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, then perhaps you can be Betty Co-ed. Should you age gracefully, then you could be Homecoming or Junior Weekend queen, or maybe even Little Colonel. To say nothing of Moonlight Girl, Swamp Girl, Dream Girl, White Rose, Rose Queen and Miss Oregon. Even if you're married you still have a chance—Dad's Day hostess.

How about a Miss Physical Plant to change the sprinklers or a Miss Stacks to shelve books at the library? Or a Miss Romance Languages? They could rule all year long.

Really, we're not too serious. After all, how would sororities rush without queens? They might be forced into pledging Stella Stanine or Agatha Activities. And what would their national magazines use for pictures then?—(S.R.)

## First Browsing Room Lecture?



"Even though I'm flunking, Dr. Barnett, I always enjoy attending your lectures."

## INTERPRETING THE NEWS

### Wives Getting Scarce Along the Gaza Strip

CAIRO—Wives are getting scarcer every day in the Gaza strip.

Living there are 250,000 refugees who fled Palestine homes at the outbreak of hostilities between Arabs and Jews in 1948. They are on U. N. dole in camps in the Egyptian-held part of Palestine.

As soon as the maturing refugee girls receive their school diplomas they are off to seek jobs in distant Arab countries where demands for teachers, nurses and secretaries are great.

Inflation of dowries has resulted from the shortage of eligible maidens. Bachelors have complained of the fabulous sums demanded as dowry. An average figure reached recently is equivalent to \$3,000.

This desire of the refugee teenagers to support themselves is revolutionary in this part of the world. In the rest of the Arab countries the sons often remain dependent on their parents until they are well in their 20s. The

girls remain home after their schooling until they are married.

But apparently the last thing this generation of educated refugee girls wants to do is to marry a fellow refugee and live in poverty.

Almost all the refugee girls of age attend schools financed by the United Nations. Passing in examinations is in many cases 100 per cent.

As soon as the girls receive their diplomas they apply for jobs in Kuwait, Iraq, Libya or Saudi Arabia.

Demand for educated people and the heat which discourages people from working in these underdeveloped but oil-rich countries keep wages high. Salaries are often tenfold those for similar jobs in Cairo, Alexandria or Beirut.

Many girls plan to work two or three years in these desert countries and save enough money for a college education. Some plan to go to the United States. Most of these girls send money to their parents back home—a novelty in the Middle East.



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