

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Not Enough Time

The Senate selected Homecoming general co-chairmen Thursday night, but in our opinion, they were about five months late.

After the 1954 Homecoming, the general chairmen submitted a recommendation that the 1955 chairmen be selected at the end of spring term, possible at the first meeting of the new Senate.

In the bustle of spring term affairs, this was not done. So consequently, the 1955 chairmen have six weeks to make plans for what will probably be Oregon's largest Homecoming.

They have six weeks in which to make arrangements for a band; six weeks in which to publicize and promote the weekend on campus, in Eugene, to alumni and at the northern branch. The six weeks is not long enough. Not long enough, anyway, to do the kind of a job which should be done in a university of this size.

Take the matter of the band. Oregon students complain about the lack of name bands for campus dances. One reason is that the big-name bands make up their schedules well in advance. You cannot get one on short notice. Until we are far-sighted enough to plan our dances further ahead, we cannot hope to have any name band, particularly at a price which we can afford.

This problem was partially alleviated this year when one Senate member wrote to bands during the summer. It would be better, however, had it been possible for the chairmen to write the letters and make definite arrangements.

We wish the Homecoming chairmen the best of luck. And we hope their successors will have enough time so that they won't need luck. (S.R.)

Diminishing Return

Maybe we had better have another Orientation week. Or at least a better one.

The results of a random poll taken last week by the Emerald show that freshmen either did not learn or did not remember much from the orientation sessions. They were asked to name some of the key people who participated in the numerous assemblies held during Orientation week.

Only President Wilson came out ahead. Approximately half knew the name of the ASUO president and the associate director of women's affairs. About one-third knew the name of the associate director of men's affairs, and about the same number of the captain of the football team. However, nearly all could give the number of either the sororities or the fraternities on campus.

It would seem that the freshmen were preoccupied with other things during Orientation week, and perhaps they weren't deriving the maximum benefit from it.

Between President Wilson's welcoming address and rush week at the end, the various other orientation programs seemed to have had little impact. And little wonder, con-

sidering the number of programs and assemblies held.

Would it not be better to consolidate the programs, leaving the new student more time to investigate them on his own? Surely it would be more meaningful to him, and he would certainly be in better shape for the start of classes had he had a little rest.

The number of evening programs has reached the point of diminishing return. The students are too tired to benefit from them, with the result that the assemblies are of little value.

We do not hold with the school of thought that the new student must be busy every minute in order to protect his moral well-being. College students are old enough to decide for themselves how they will benefit most from the expenditure of their time, and they may as well begin Orientation week.

(S.R.)

Courage In Idaho

All is not lost. The University of Idaho joins the University of Oregon among Northwest institutions in refusing to be bullied. Idaho locked horns with the local American Legion and spurned the Legion's demand that the university keep Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins off its campus. The educator is scheduled to speak there in January. It is our hope that Oregon's courage in insisting on the right to invite J. Robert Oppenheim to speak here firmed up Idaho's position.

In objection to Dr. Hutchins' appearance the Legion asserted that "His record has rendered him unsuitable for such appearances before our students." We suspect, however, that the Legion's principle objection is that Dr. Hutchins has served as a punching bag for the Legion's national commander. The commander's attack on Dr. Hutchins and the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Republic, of which Dr. Hutchins is president, will come to the attention of Legion members at the national convention in Miami this month.

We get a little tired of Dr. Hutchins sometimes, too. But he remains an apostle of intelligent discontent—not discord, but discontent—and what better qualities could a man bring to a university campus?

—From the Eugene Register-Guard.

Footnotes

Just can't win department: A student parked in the Friendly hall parking lot Wednesday night on his way to the traffic court to appeal a ticket he got the second day of school. To his joy, the court dropped the \$1 parking fine; but when the student returned to his car, another ticket from the UO police department was under his windshield wiper.

* * *

The tolling of the bells before the game Saturday evidently wasn't a particularly good omen for Oregon's football team. Perhaps they just didn't realize for whom the funeral dirge was intended.

Fire Prevention Week



"A CHIMNEY SWEEP MY EYE!—THERE HASN'T BEEN A FIRE ON THIS FLOOR FOR TWENTY YEARS."

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

French Crisis Likely To Upset Our Strategy

By William L. Ryan

Of the Associated Press

Less than three weeks before the scheduled opening of the four-power foreign ministers' conference, France is amid a full-blown crisis that can knock Western strategy into a cocked hat.

What is happening to France seems not so much the uprising of nationalism in her empire, but civil strife involving the French die-hard colonialists in North Africa and their supporters in metropolitan France with those Frenchmen who sought and still are seeking desperately for ways to end the strife short of disaster.

Much French business and much of France's very economy depends upon the North African protectorates and Algeria, which Paris says are parts of metropolitan France. Therefore there is stubborn and powerful support in Paris for the firm-hand colonialists.

But there are many French who favor even more far reaching reforms than those proposed by the Faure government. Among these French are those who see only two alternatives: significant home rule concessions or total loss of North Africa.

Separation of North Africa from the French union would be a major disaster for France. It could lead to chaos inside metropolitan France herself. Yet in the midst of the bitter quarrel over what is needed to pacify North Africa, time is rapidly running out and France's authority continues to slip in the pattern established in Indo-China.

The effects already are being felt elsewhere in the West. France's troubles in Algeria are gradually weakening links that hold the chain of the North Atlantic Treaty organization together. When the United Nations assembly voted to discuss the Algerian question, France walked out.

And there was French bitterness against Greece, one of her NATO partners, and other pro-Western nations for their role in the Assembly vote.

The nations which voted against discussing Algeria became the target of bitterness from the Arab world and that section of the world which considers itself to have been abused by colonialism. On both sides of the issue, therefore, the Soviet Union has scored victories for world communism.

And now, virtually on the eve of the Geneva foreign ministers conference, France faces a crisis and all the uncertainty and insecurity that go with it. Such a development must certainly weaken the Western front at a critical time, in the face of the most determined and sustained diplomatic offensive the Communists have ever attempted.

The Communist world can turn handsprings of joy at the prospects. The Cominform radio, for example, is hailing the developments in North Africa and the United Nations as "the defeat of imperialism" and the beginning of a solid alignment of the Asian and African world on the side of the Communist bloc. That is too close to the truth for the West to shrug it off.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

AN OPEN LETTER TO BRADFORD BLAINE

Generally speaking, this letter is being written in concern with the fact that coke and other soft drink dispensers are being handled differently this year in the John Straub dormitories.

Particularly speaking, we are writing because we are irked at the "new" way they are being handled, or MAN-HANDLED, if the term applies.

As we understand it, in previous years the coke machines were placed at inconspicuous places in the dorm lounges with

the net profits to be used by the people who EARNED the profits (to wit—the people who bought the cokes in the particular dorms).

Taking Barrister Inn, for example, the dispenser has been shoved down to the water pipes in the basement... a nice, handy place to go when you want a coke.

"What's wrong with the lounge," we say. "Makes the place too junky," your flunky says. Junky, flunky... move 'em behind the hall door if they seem to detract from our "country club" appearance.

As things stand now, inmates

who know the difference at our local institution are PO'd. And we'd bet that coke sales have dropped from a comparative standpoint of last year. Wonder if the coke company would be interested in a statistical breakdown of coke sales in Barrister for September 1954 and September 1955?

Of course the decision hardly rests with just the students... but then everyone has heard the story about "lefty"... you know the righthanded guy who gave a lion a piece of meat, and then tried to take it back.

Jack Collins
Barrister Inn

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