

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Opportune Break: Thanks

"Ah, how wonderful! Thanksgiving vacation is finally here—four full days away from the classroom grind."

This will be the thought that enters the minds of about 99.4 percent of the University students as they leave for home this afternoon following their final classes.

And, indeed, it is nice that students can have a break in the college routine at such an opportune time as this, just two weeks before finals. A good turkey dinner and a little rest by a warm fireplace will do wonders for the students' "study morale" when they get back to the campus.

But, while all this is well and good, students shouldn't forget to remember the real meaning of Thanksgiving. It is certainly more than just a four-day vacation from school.

We hate to delve into a lengthy explanation of what Thanksgiving means because it is so commonplace for newspapers to do so. Besides, we don't think it is necessary. Young men and women of college age should at least have a faint idea of the meaning of Thanksgiving.

So, proceeding on this assumption, let's simply conclude by saying, "Have a good time, enjoy your turkey day feast and don't forget to be thankful for all the good things you have in life."—(B.R.)

Mechanized Mess

Friday's noise parade left us with two things: a pair of practically broken ear drums and one thought—why bother?

Before this year's noise parade, the committee in charge considered the possibility of a de-mechanized parade this year. They decided to hold the parade as it had been in the past, despite a last minute plan for use in case the weather had made use of the trucks unsafe. Actually, it would have been better if the snow had stayed.

The noise parade is no longer the novel form of Homecoming parade and rally. Even Oregon State has one. Certainly, as evidenced Friday, the parade does nothing to stir up spirit for the game.

Living organizations force their members to participate—and such forced participation contributes nothing to spirit. The parade has evolved into a contest among the men's living organizations, with the women along for the ride—or rather, the walk.

The men go all-out obtaining novel noise makers at considerable cost. They then direct their efforts to making the mechanical marvels work in front of the judging stand. To us, this does not constitute spirit. What was once a student rally has become evidence of the mechanical age.

Even without the weather of last week, the noise parade has presented certain problems. Backfire from acetylene cannons nearly resulted in serious accidents last year. Windows have been broken. There have been numerous cases of personal injuries—minor burns, cuts and bruises. Community relations should also be considered: the University is a short distance from Sacred Heart hospital. Stopping the mechanical noises at 13th and University does not help when noises made up to that point carry all over the city. Consider also the Eugene residents who were disturbed by the air raid sirens.

One of the factors contributing to this situation has been the emphasis in judging on sustained noise and originality in noise making. How but with mechanical devices can you make sustained noise? And what could judges consider more original than a siren from the Mid-Pacific or some other mechanical marvel? The spirit of those on the float and those following it accounts for only 40 per cent of the total points.

Just what kind of spirit does such a judging system incite? If the noise parade is intended as a rally to raise spirit for the Homecoming game—as it once was—then what else should be considered but the spirit of the students?

The noise parade has gotten out of hand. We would like to see the committee recommend that next year's parade be a de-mechanized affair with the emphasis upon the spirit of students, not a bunch of costly machines.—(S.R.)

Footnotes

Notes on the Pigger's Guide: both the ASUO president and vice-president are classified as juniors. The phone number of one male member of the Senate is listed as that of one of the sororities. And the athletic department is using the PG's handy little asterisks to determine who is eligible to buy student spouses' tickets.

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Signs of the times department: crayon lettered placard in the Co-op says "Romeo and Juliet on balcony."

Dear Dad: I Need . . .



"I'm trying to work his way through college, Madam, and . . ."

College Capers . . .

From Coast to Coast

By Bobby Harris
Emerald Columnist

SOMETHING TO THINK about:

The Xavier University News recently printed this advice for people who have a heavy foot on the gas pedal and it is something you might think about when driving home today. It's entitled "Sing While You Drive."

At 45 miles per hour, sing: "Highways Are Happy Ways." At 55 miles per hour, sing: "I'm But a Stranger Here." At 65 miles per hour, sing: "Nearer My God, to Thee."

At 75 miles an hour, sing: "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There." And finally, when speeding along at 85, start humming: "Lord, I'm Coming Home."

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POLITICS IN THE NEWS:

The new president of the Young Democratic club at Grinnell College in Iowa has finally received the Eisenhower campaign button he requested in 1952. Not one button, but two dozen Eisenhower buttons and stickers were presented to the young man by Walter Williams, undersecretary of commerce. Upon receiving them, he said, "I have sort of a guilty feeling about accepting them at this time. Now I normally think of myself as a Democrat."

* * *

MORE PRANKS:

Three Texas A & M students were apprehended last Tues-

day morning while attempting to put potassium permanganate in the big Texas fountain. The addition of this chemical would have turned the water to a dark purple color.

They were kept in the Austin jail until the next morning and then released to university officials who suspended them until the end of the semester which now seems to be a customary practice all over the nation.

* * *

At Louisiana State university, the inter-dormitory council is trying to change correct campus dress. The women object to a ruling which prohibits the wearing of blue jeans, Bermuda shorts, pedal pushers and similar attire.

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An ROTC Etiquette course is offered coeds at the University of Kansas by the department of military science. General orientation, background, and history of the services are discussed, along with rank identification, pay scales, service traditions, overseas duty, air base facilities, changes of station and moving procedure, retirement pay, death benefits, pensions, social life, and jobs available to service wives in the states and overseas.

* * *

Add to your lists of queens: the University of Texas not only has an Aqua Carnival queen, but a Miss Chez C'Est Si Bon, who somewhat resembles the old Law School Weekend Queen.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

Your stories about the Eugene-Springfield community orchestra pleased me very much. I feel that we have started something that can become a very vital part of our cultural and entertainment program. However, in Mr. Cleaver's sympathetic review one important fact about the orchestra was omitted. " . . . 62 musicians from all walks of life, professional people, teachers, businessmen, . . ." True, but of the 62, 35 are at present enrolled as students in the University! Of the other 27, five are staff members of the school of music, and many others graduates of the school.

The orchestra is ours, as it is the community's. With continued support we will reach goals that few dare dream of now. Stick with us and see what happens.

George Boughton
Assoc. prof. of violin

Emerald Editor:

Clarification needs to be made of the present University policy regarding what may and may not be said by political figures in their appearances on the campus.

We have just returned from hearing Gov. Harriman speak in the SU and frankly were somewhat disappointed in the subject matter of his talk—that is, what should be done with U.S. economy and education to keep ahead of the Russians. Besides being one of the well-known statesmen of today, Gov. Harriman is a potential candidate for president. Further, we are embarking upon an election year and what people like him have to say about political matters is significant and interesting.

Whether Harriman's remarks were spoken entirely through choice is doubtful. True, he might have chosen the topic himself, but it is likely he was influenced in this by previous direction to channel his talk away from certain candidates or particular political issues. He might have been overcautious in view of the admonition, but whether this was the case or not, we don't think his type of speech is what the University community is looking forward to hearing during the coming year.

In the past we have had

Estes Kefauver, John Sparkman, Douglas McKay and Wayne Morse on our platform. Each performed accordingly. Each was a political figure closely tied in with politics and each spoke along appropriate political lines. If there is a different rule now that prohibits this sort of thing it can not be re-examined too soon. To schedule Gov. Patterson for a talk on the function of the state board of control or Vice-President Nixon on the present status of the Monroe doctrine would be both uninteresting and unusual considering their positions and the fact that November 1956 is approaching.

It is one thing to restrict a person from using the University forum to stump for a particular candidate and another to prohibit him in any manner from speaking out on current controversial topics, political or otherwise. The political maturity of the student body can only be enhanced by permitting open discussion by our speakers along the lines indicated.

Bill Frye
Pres., Young Democrats
Chuck Blackburn
Pres., Young Republicans

oregon Daily EMERALD

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