

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS +

8 o'Clock Wakeup

## Most Popular Place

Strange as it may seem, nomination for the most popular place on the campus last week goes to the library. Never have we seen so many students buckling down to study so early in the term. We hope it is a trend.

Of course we are not saying that the library hasn't been used much before. One look at the main circulation desk (it is piled with dozens of stacks of books not yet reshelfed from last term) and the circulation figures will show that the library has been a steady haunt for somebody.

Now there may be more than one reason why so many students decided to make the library their first-week hangout.

1. Fall term grades—A few (likely a minority) college students actually came to school to study and make good grades. There are a good number of fall term students who are no longer with us, and many of the ones that are still here got a rude awakening when grades arrived.

2. Theses—About 15 percent of the students on campus are graduates. Nearly all have to write a thesis to get their degrees and many other students are doing term papers just to graduate. Winter term is the big rush time for these projects, which obviously raises the library population.

3. Quiet—The library isn't the most silent place in the world, with people scurrying around banging bells for service, exchanging ideas about class projects and generally keeping the place from sounding like a morgue. But it is heaven compared to some living organizations, especially during the first week of school when many don't have much to do and make the place noisy for everyone else.

4. Rain—There is nothing more persuasive in keeping students indoors than steady Oregon rain. Most moisture that came fall term was snow, which students played in just like the grade school kids. But the past week the rain has been coming down in buckets, cans and cups. So where could be a better place to keep dry than deep in the book stacks of the library?

5. Romance—Spring is traditionally the time of love, but the number of goo-goo eyes being flashed around the library every night is amazing. Many freshmen learned early the old trick of getting out of the dorm to go to the library, then meeting their dreamboat there and making hay while the rain pours.

It may take a long time to get well-acquainted with the library. One student we asked thought it contained five million books, but actually there are only about half a million, still enough to keep 5000 students busy the rest of their lives. At least the library should keep them busy the rest of the term.

—(J.C.)

## Pay-by-the-Year

Much food for thought is given in a recent Harper's article, "Pay by the Year: Can the Unions Afford It?"

The article, written by Economist Harold J. Ruttenberg who is given credit for originating the idea of the guaranteed annual wage, tells the advantages, disadvantages, probabilities and improbabilities of today's wage-earners going into a pay-by-the-year program in the near future.

Ruttenberg, who is currently president of a manufacturing concern, has under him 243 employees of the United States Steel Workers union (USW). For the past several months they have been demanding a pay by the year schedule. The union has threatened to take them on strike this year if they don't get it.

Ruttenberg believes that the program is necessary simply because today more and more people are "living by the year." He points out that working folks are buying homes, cars, TV sets, iceboxes, etc., on a contract basis and as they do this they no longer can afford to work by the hour. Workers have to be sure of regular salaries.

The system, although it may seem a bit complicated, has definite merits, the big one of course being that it eliminates a labor plague, seasonal idleness. Since an employee would be getting paid by the year, he wouldn't need to worry about layoffs. By the same token, an employer, knowing that his employees were being paid by the year, would hesitate to lay them off for extended periods and would prefer to find another job in the plant for a worker who had come to a slack time on his own job. Naturally, the employee would be required to do the job he was told or else lose some of his credited 2080 hours.

Ruttenberg indicates that the ones who would be hurt by the plan are the union leaders.

"They will have to go back to work," he says.

As Ruttenberg points out, the union leaders would lose much of their striking power under a pay by the year program. They would no longer be able to force employers to raise wages at just any time during the year because of the year-long contract.

In addition, these same leaders would have to help in setting up the pay schedule for their members. In other words what the new setup does is gives the employer an opportunity to reassume leadership of employee relations.

There are obviously many good points about Ruttenberg's plan. Although there are still many things to be worked out before such a system could function smoothly, it seems that in time it could work.—(B.R.)



## INTERPRETING THE NEWS

### Anything Can Happen With French Coalition

France's well-wishers are wondering what would happen to her if Premier Faure proves wrong about the possibility of a center coalition government as he has proved wrong about stabilizing France through new elections.

The nation is in a situation where anything could happen, from a popular front coalition to dictatorship. The former would mean dictation by the Communists, the latter the rise of a strong man who, however, is not yet in sight.

There was also the possibility of a grouping of Mendes-France's left of center and Faure's right of center around a Socialist premier. Faure obviously prefers a direct reconciliation with Mendes-France, but the latter's campaign bitterness made that a hard matter.

The bald fact is that the elections, emphasizing national disunity and revealing the number and depth of cross-cutting issues, have brought a grave threat to republican government itself. The talk is of electoral reforms and a strengthened executive set-up under a revised constitution, but what may happen before anything is done, if anything can be done, is a matter of wide speculation.

Great pressure is in the present leaders of moderate fac-

tions to put aside their political maneuvers for the benefit of the nation. The press is alerting the public to the danger to democracy unless the leaders do so.

France's allies in the Western world are saying little and keeping their fingers crossed, but there is clear evidence of worry in both London and Washington. For the time being, at least, France is incapable of participation in solution of mutual problems as well as her own problems in which there is mutual interest, such as North Africa.

And the worry is not confined to the present. It extends to what France's entire future role may be.

Everyone agreed the Communists had scored a great victory, whether they get into the government or not.

The extreme rightist Poujadists, a new manifestation of the disruptive spirit which so weakened France before World War II, were playing in the hands of the Reds.

For this moment, the initiative in saving the republic lies in the hands of Mendes-France, Faure and Socialist leader Guy Mollet, who frequently lines up with Mendes-France. If they fail, the door is wide open for a strong man.

## Letters to the Editor

### Emerald Editor:

As an alum of this University and a present graduate student, I feel that the time has come to express my views on the present food service of our Student Union. Now that we have our "union," the many contributions of students, past and present, should be rewarded with a little better service.

Therefore, I should like to propose the following suggestions for consideration by the Student Union board, which would promote better feelings for those being served and help reduce the problems of those harried personnel trying to serve.

1. Employ the use of a centrally placed cashier at the fountain, particularly during the rush periods. This person would take all cash, issue food order numbers and call out prepared orders.

2. Open full-time the counter normally closed, for self-serv-

ice on coffee, doughnuts, etc. The customer would then move on to the central cashier for payment. Leave the other side for orders.

3. Persons preparing orders could anticipate more accurately rush periods, such as noon hour, Sunday evenings, ball games, etc., and prepare hamburger patties 15 to 20 minutes ahead of time ready to place in buns.

4. The above suggestions would leave the other personnel free to take sandwich and fountain orders, giving the usual slip to the student. The student then moves on to the cashier for payment and would pick up his order number. In this way, more than a single person could be served at one time. If the time is slack, then these personnel could replenish the coffee supply, bus dishes, etc. Also, during rush periods one person could fill fountain orders exclusively, doing more

than one at a time.

5. In the cafeteria at noon, let the customer serve self with drinks and thus free that lady to serve vegetables and soup or replenish the coffee or tea as needed.

These suggestions are made after having worked in other cafeterias, school unions and restaurants. I feel they would make for better organization, less waiting, more efficiency and better dispositions for students and union personnel.

As an example of the present service, I just waited 55 minutes from the time of getting in a line of about 20 people, until the order was called from the counter. This seems to me to indicate a situation where any change in the method of service would be an improvement and is drastically needed.

Sincerely for better service,  
Georgina Adams  
Graduate student in PE



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