

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

One Better

Improper actions during fraternity initiations have been banned by the Oregon State college interfraternity council. The Oregon IFC beat its Beaver counterpart to the punch, however, and to the headlines.

There is one basic difference between the rulings of the two groups: the Oregon by-law officially opposes Hell Week and any actions adversely affecting the fraternity system, whereas the Oregon State fraternity men get specific.

To wit: under the OSC rules, "there shall be no hacking during initiations, no initiations practiced in the public view, no excessive physical strain, no happy-fun games and no form of moral degradation. Violators would be put on a probation which would cut out the offending fraternity's initiations, pledging, rushing and social activities for a year.

For once our country cousins seem to have gone us one better.—(S.R.)

Challenge to Fraternities

A challenge to fraternities and sororities to concern themselves with the larger goals of service to the University and development of the individual was presented in a recent national Greek publication.

The article, by the dean of women at the University of Kansas, specifically criticized chapters who concern themselves unduly with telephone bills, meal charts and chapter publicity, to the neglect of more important fraternal obligations.

Dual obligations of fraternity groups, the author believes, are to make members aware of the fundamental and relatively unchanging purposes of the University, plus giving them a willingness to work actively for such aims.

Progress toward these purposes, the author thinks, can best be measured by such daily indices as dinner-table conversation, the books and magazines read in spare time and what courses are taken.

Training in democratic processes, also a by-product of fraternity organization, can be shown by the vigor and enthusiasm the chapter and its members show in the support of convocations, orientation activities and other all-school events which show a real loyalty to the University, the author says.

Some faculty members and administrative officials of universities have come to view procedures of fraternities and sororities as "unenlightened," the author feels, because both the University and the fraternal groups are handling a different kind of student than the one seen when both were founded.

The author of the article feels that charges of student apathy and even of possible laziness result from a lack of acceptance of the fraternity's challenge, that of adapting goals and standards to fit a new and expanded University life.

Telephone bills hardly fit the category of large University goals. The article provides food for thought. (A.R.)

Watered Down, But Kicking

From the Daily Texan.

The Bricker Amendment, archetype of American reaction's foreign policy unction, is before Congress again. Watered down but still doggedly kicking, the amendment has been written this time by the vocal Senator Dirksen of Illinois, and is being approved from many quarters simply because it seems harmless and would appease.

Its purpose has always been to cripple the President's individual powers to negotiate foreign treaties, and Senators Bricker, Watkins, George, Knowland—not to men-

tion Dirksen—have all had their own versions competing for senatorial sanction.

For reasons quite inexplicable, 11 of the Senate Judiciary committee's 13 members have reported favorably on the Dirksen revision. Still, there was some disagreement over one sentence: "A provision of a treaty or other international agreement which conflicts with any provision of this Constitution shall not have any force or effect..." In this regard, the new form conceals just as much potency for hindrance as did the earlier ones. Its dubious language could ensnarl every international agreement, however harmless, over whether it did violate "any provision" of the Constitution and if so what provision.

The New York City Bar association stated the case better. "At a time when more than ever in our history," the association has said, "it is imperative that this country afford intelligent and constructive leadership... its adoption today would place many impediments on the conduct of our foreign affairs and military operations and adversely affect our chances of survival in the modern world."

Senators Bricker and Dirksen will probably never surrender ground. The dangers of the proposal have never been really acknowledged by the whole of the American populace, and the far right-wing which has sponsored it has pricked consciences even within its own party. But this indictment should not apply to the Democrats, and the Democratic majority on the judiciary committee should never have allowed the measure to bounce back during an election year.

Because the amendment is now before the public eye, its provisions must be advertised. And its major danger, as the Washington Post has said, lies in the fact that nobody knows exactly what it means or how it could be applied in practice. We think it far too similar to the outfield fly which the centerfielder lost in the sun, hazarding the same possible embarrassing results.

Footnotes

Campus fraternities seem to be realizing it's leap year. Several of them have reversed the usual policy on sign-ups for Wednesday night desserts and are sending around lists of men in the house for women to sign up for.

Someone has either a good sense of humor or a poor sense of timing. The lovely strains of "Summertime" issued from the Student Union chimes in the middle of a rainy, windy afternoon.

After the corner stone-laying festivities on the Millrace, we've come up with a new idea for restoring the 'Race: just pump out the marsh that passes for ground along the Millrace. We swear that there was more water there than in the 'Race itself.

Shades of our forefathers who used to wade through the mud to get to Deady! Last term men were chopping up the wreckage of the weekend storms into firewood hunks, ala the old days.

One of our 15th St. operatives reports that the model airplane craze is dead—or up in the trees somewhere. The latest thing is kites.

Jupiter Pluvius must be against restoration of the Millrace. Every time some event is scheduled for the 'Race, it pours.

Those wooly bears with long, heavy middles last fall were right. It's been a long, hard winter.

Better Than Flunking



"YA, KNOW—IT WORRIES ME WHAT SOME OF THESE CRAZY KIDS WILL DO FOR A GRADE."

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

I have recently received a petition, signed by veterans of the armed forces enrolled at the University, urging my support for legislation to increase the amount of the benefits available to veterans under the various Federal laws providing for veterans' education. Because this petition was signed by several hundred individual students, I am writing this letter to the Emerald as a means of replying to all the ex-servicemen attending the University.

I am thoroughly convinced of the value to our nation of the education obtained by ex-servicemen under the different forms of veterans' re-adjustment legislation, and of the importance of making it financially possible for them to remain in school and to finish their education. Therefore, when S 533 or a similar bill to augment these educational benefits is reported to the Senate by the committee on labor and public welfare, I shall be glad to support it.

At the same time, I believe that there is neither justification nor good reason for the termination of the G. I. bill of rights as of January 31, 1955. I have introduced a bill, S. 2962, to reinstitute this program for our present servicemen. Not only does this seem a matter of essential fairness to our servicemen, as long as we must continue to enforce compulsory military service for the national security in these perilous times;

it is also a proven way to strengthen our nation in the face of repeated reports that we are falling behind in the training of essential technical, scientific and other skilled personnel. I hope and trust that any veteran who has himself benefited from the forward-looking and highly successful provisions of our postwar G. I. bills of right will support the extension of this program to those who are following him in the service of our nation.

Richard L. Neuberger
United States Senator

Emerald Editor:

I would like to make a comment on the effigy that was hung in front of Commonwealth hall with the sign "Alabama, the Disgrace of our Nation." I believe that before any Oregonian or any other Northerner starts slinging mud at our Southern neighbors, he had better do some cleaning up in his own back yard. I seem to recall a certain hotel in Portland not allowing a colored actress to stay there a few years ago. There are many other cases that can be pointed out like that one. One of the most popular Northern sayings is "I am not prejudiced, but..."

I don't like what is happening in Alabama anymore than anyone else, but I do feel it can't be solved by such action as was demonstrated in front of Commonwealth.

Lloyd Porter,
Soph. in Pre-Business



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