

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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If We Want a Millrace - -

Successful restoration of the University's greatest tradition, the Millrace, moved a step closer to reality recently when the University of Oregon Development Fund corporation agreed to underwrite the balance of the University's share of initial costs.

This action, in so many words, officially indicates alumni approval and backing for the project and its fund raising drive, since the great majority of donations to the organization come from graduates.

This approval depends upon a big condition, however: the student body contributions must reach a total of \$10,000 before the end of the school year. So far, the fund raising committee has come up with an estimated \$7,000. In less than three months, the student body must find another \$3,000.

It goes without saying that the bulk of this money will have to come from the students, themselves; although the faculty and University friends will certainly be asked to help a little.

This final drive for funds will be the real test of student interest in the 'Race. It

could very well decide whether the stream is restored or not.

Up to this point, much of the work toward restoration has been done, and necessarily so, by a relatively small number of vitally interested students and faculty. Now its time for the rank and file of the student body to step in and lend a hand.

The purpose of this editorial is not to point out the values and advantages of a restored Millrace. Such things as its scenic beauty, its recreational value, and its Canoe Fete should be more than apparent to the average student by this time.

Rather, our purpose is to stress the importance of raising \$3,000 immediately.

The engineering reports have been examined and adopted. Alumni support for part of the University's share of the money is guaranteed. Approval of the plan by the city of Eugene is almost certain. There's just one thing left to be done; and the responsibility for getting it done rests solidly on the students.

It's up to us, now, to lend our financial support to the Millrace. (S.V.)

Facts Support Houses' Tax Exemption

"I can't see any reason why those fraternity boys should get out of paying taxes." This was the shallow view expressed by one very high-up state official last week when questioned about the living organization tax bill for which public hearing is being held this afternoon.

While we assume members of the House taxation committee are better informed than was this official, it might be well to review the argument which our spokesmen will be presenting today.

In the first place, fraternities, sororities and co-ops pay a tax upon their real property or the value of their land and buildings. But last year a Benton County (Corvallis) assessor's deputy wondered why houses did not pay a tax upon furnishing. He wrote the State Commission, which subsequently ruled that such a tax should be paid. Thus, as of Jan. 1, members of University of Oregon living organizations are paying an estimated \$2,500 yearly of additional tax.

Why is such a new tax unsound? The Emerald believes that living organizations are essentially homes away from home of our students. Homeowners do not pay such a tax; why should our living organizations be treated like profit-making hotels, for example?

Legislators should also remember that living organizations are providing housing for several thousand students at no expense to the tax payers, at a time when the Legislature is being asked for funds for dormitory construction. Why levy another tax upon members of such organizations?

The states financial picture being what it is, many are reluctant to give an inch on taxation. But this tax does not go to the state; it goes to the cities, counties and school districts in which the organizations are located. We see no need for students

who bring themselves and their dollars to college to further support local government.

The Emerald believes the facts clearly support passage of this bill to exempt houses from such a tax. The State Senate passed the bill with ease. We hope that once the House taxation committee hears our case this afternoon that it will agree. Their recommendation would almost assure passage of the bill, which then would need only the Governor's signature to become law.

The prospects for such tax justice are looking brighter.

Footnotes

The ice-skating fever that dominated the millrace during winter term seems to have moved up-campus. Several sorority damsels, clad in shorts, etc., were seen roller-skating around the library the other night, taking advantage of the term's first warm evening. Better hang on to those skates for spring term eight o'clocks!

We wonder at the significance of the registration procedures in the Political Science Department and School of Business: informant says both used RED ink in stamping class cards.

Poet Laureate's offering for spring term:
"Wine does more than Milton can
To justify God's ways to man."

And a final word about spring term: the sunshine, squirrels, roller skates and convertibles might have a chance for editorial comment any other spring term, but Dave Beck, the IFC and dormitory rules are too much this year.

They'll Do It Every Term

