

Hope for Rules Reform?

Q. What is the present state of the controversy over women's dormitory regulations? Does the lack of recent publicity mean the issue was a futile attempt, now dead?

A. Prospects have never looked better for reform. AWS is in the process of reorganizing. Apparently future rules will be made by Heads of Houses and the AWS legislature, operating under the AWS president and cabinet. In this way a number of women leaders will be in a position to suggest changes and to get some action.

Q. What have been the weaknesses of the present system?

A. Nobody knew who made most of the rules or what could be done to change them. Theoretically, Mrs. Wickham has said, they were made by Heads of Houses. But this group hasn't touched them for several years, or even realized it had such "power." In practice these rules have been dictated by administrators. Some of them were initiated by housemothers and counselors without the knowledge of the Dean of Women. Most serious was the fact that complaints have been generally ignored. The administrators consider these traditional policies sacred.

Q. What has been The Emerald's part in this matter?

A. It brought a messy situation out into the light where others could see the opportunity for correction. Contrary to the view expressed by the Dean of Women, The Emerald does not have an annual spring term crusade; nor do we consider this a "tempest in a teapot." Our original interest was caused by the resentment of many women — a resentment that has been amply proved by the student reaction. But The Emerald doesn't "crusade" for anything students want. It entered this matter only after serious thought, which convinced every member of the editorial board that the present system has been entirely wrong.

Q. What is wrong with present rules?

A. First, they do not come from the women whom they regulate. Second, they are based upon the belief that freshman women must be coddled — that they are not mature enough to make their own decisions, and that if given the responsibility they would not be equal to it. They are also based on Mrs. Wickham's belief that the Dean of Women must "save freshman women from themselves." She believes — with the very best of intentions — that it is her responsibility to keep every girl in school. Therefore our women are not allowed library privileges (although nearly all American universities do so) every night, for some would wander off to the movies and eventually flunk out of school.

Q. How does this differ with The Emerald's philosophy?

A. The Emerald believes in "educational free enterprise." We would prefer unlimited library privileges and the immediate abolition of the 11 p.m. "bedcheck." We believe the present rules would be appropriate for WAC basic training, but not for University of Oregon women.

Q. But wouldn't some of the women go to

the movies instead of to the library?

A. Certainly. But these women have to take midterms and finals just like the rest of us (upperclassmen and freshman men have such liberty). Each woman would be responsible for herself. If she wants to be a real student, she would have the opportunity to do so. If not, she faces another decision: whether to discipline herself enough to stay in school, or whether to flunk out.

Q. Isn't this an awfully callous attitude? Shouldn't they be protected from themselves?

A. Perhaps — the Dean of Women thinks so. But what is the purpose of a state university, whose students are "given" 85 per cent of their education by the taxpayers? The Emerald believes it should provide education for those who want it, and should not try to protect those who don't want to study. Because of financial pressure, the state is now forced to limit enrollment. What better standard for limitation could be found than by giving every student the right to decide for himself whether or not he belongs in college?

Q. Aside from allowing freshman women freedom to get as much education as possible, would there be another advantage of "educational free enterprise?"

A. Yes. The Emerald believes that individuals mature only as they are given responsibility. A series of directives from on high does not help the freshman woman to become a responsible adult. If the women made their own rules, as they do in many universities (even at OSC), they could not help but mature in the process.

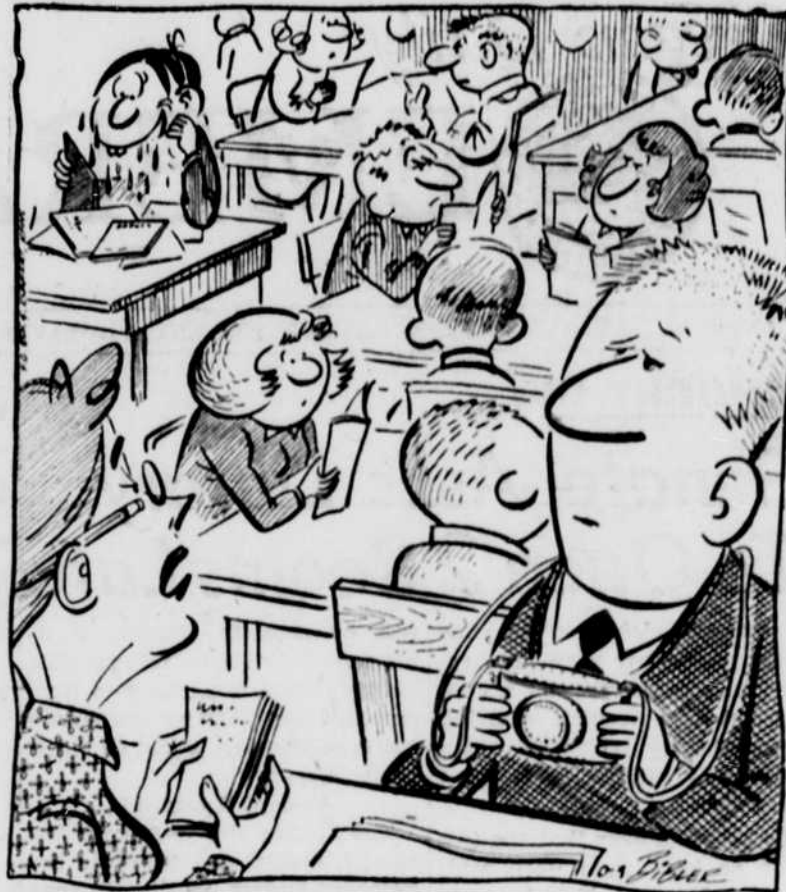
Q. But do the freshman women really care?

A. The administration would have us believe that only a few "troublemakers" are interested (we refer them to Mortar Board, the most respected women's group on campus). One frosh has said "I think we can learn to live with most any situation." Even if the women didn't care (we have the opinions of over a hundred to the contrary), it would not be too important. The purpose is not to make them happy. IN ITSELF; the purpose is to provide University women with a better system. And we would suggest that an "I can live with anything" philosophy is not a monument to American education. Surely education should encourage critical thinking, not blind acceptance of whatever some unidentified higher authority lays down. What if Hungarians could "live with anything?"

Q. What will happen?

A. That will be up to the women of the University, and therein is the greatest value of this "crusade" or "tempest" or controversy. A reorganized AWS, fully aware of the possibility of reform, will have the opportunity to change the system. This is as it should be. Change will not come easily, for it takes courage to stand up in Heads of Houses and oppose the desires of the Dean of Women. But at least women now know what can be done, how it can be done, and will have a strong organization and public support in their efforts to correct an antiquated dormitory system. If they fail, they will have only themselves to blame.

Watch the... Birdie?



"PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINES? SOME STUDENT IN HERE HAS THEM ALL CHECKED OUT."

College Capers...

From Coast to Coast

By JOANNE MORRISSEY
Emerald Columnist

Well on my way to pounding out this week's thundering saga I found myself without a ride home for Easter. (This is a hint to anyone from Coos Bay, home of the free and the brave!) I cried, I screamed, I swore that I wouldn't take the bus. I said how I hated the bus system. I said I was afraid to ride the bus alone (which was decidedly the wrong thing to say since one of my friends offered to take it with me). I was really mad... but I'm taking the bus. Tell me, Maxine, what should I do??

The Kansas State Collegian came up with another ever-popular Chesterfield ad complete with poem:

At campus hops, Cy guards the wall. Why, he doesn't know at all.

Cy thinks he's really quite a prancer—In point of fact, a real toe dancer.

But, as every wise girl knows, he doesn't dance on his own toes!

(Someone named Arthur Murray sent that piece in—hardy har har!)

With the lists of acptepees (that's my own word and I'm so proud that one of my originals is finally getting into print) for medical and dental school coming out maybe this piece of enlightenment from the Mississippian might be of help.

"For those cats who are not doing so well in Med school we would like to print some medical slang that they can use if they ever get to be M.D.'s.

CORPUSCLE—an officer in R.O.T.C.

HARMONE — blending of notes in music

NASAL — pertaining to the navy

TONSIL—decorations used on Christmas trees

DISEASED—dead

CYST—abbreviation for Sister

BILE—provincial for boil

SCALPEL—top of the head.

Another of their suggestions might apply to the "dry zone" problem. "Wouldn't we have fun with milk outlawed? We could see the bootleggers arise. Cows would be spirited off in the night to save them from the revenuers who were fast chopping them up into steaks. Pastures would be hidden away in the hills (something new???) cleverly disguised as drive in movies (something new indeed!!!).

"Bootlegging milk would be an art much the same as bootlegging any other time. In visiting your favorite tavern in a nonchalant sort of way you would casually say to the bartender, "I'll have two quarts of the house special."

The paper suggested one solution to the problem of milk addicts as the formation of an "M.A.—Milkaholics Anonymous where fellows and girls could get gothethe (looks like I might already be qualified for membership) together and swap lies about who got the biggest jag by eating the most peach ice cream."

(This organization idea really isn't new, you know. It's not at all uncommon to swap lies over Carson's milk. In fact, that's the easiest way to dring it!)

Now that I've come to the end of my rope (figuratively speaking of course) I must close with the plea "Please save me from the bus, someone."

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BILL MAINWARING, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

These few remarks are directed to those enlightened reformers who have been criticizing our society. To you foreign students who are so embittered by our system of living my advice is that you could always return to your homeland

(Continued on page three)

Beyond the Campus Gates

Sometimes our involvement in the tight little University "reality" becomes more than just unfortunate. It is in these times that we realize that there can be more to our existence here than petitions and proms and bluebooks and badminton. But there is not always time for the student, so absorbed in his own reality, to reach out to something else — a reaching which ought to be of primary importance in this University reality.

We are fortunate at Oregon to have an educational climate in which to do our

reaching out, free from restrictions. It is now, at Easter, that this should be re-emphasized and recognized. But unfortunately it may be no more than an hour's more sleep, a respite from the blue books and badminton or a chance to take a trip home and show off the new hat or suit.

We hope that at some time in this weekend — perhaps in a Good Friday Mass or a sunrise service — the student will find the meaning of this Eastertide for him and be re-awakened to the reality beyond the limits of the campus gates. (C.H.M.)