

The Importance of the Why

Just a minute there. Before you finish that final bit of packing and rush out to buy that extra buckle-back accessory, just sit down on that bulging suitcase—it's time you thought things over a bit. It's time you asked yourself why. And don't give us that "are they screwy?" look; you owe this one to yourself.

Just why are you packing all these "essentials" to begin a new life you know very little about? Why did you save those pennies from that job this summer, and perhaps several summers, to spend them on something you're not sure of? Why have you parents hustled around making sure you have the "right" things for something you're not even sure is right for you?

Oh, but you are sure, you say; you know very well what this is all about—after all college, higher education, the American way... what is there to question why?

How about your motive? Well, to get an education, of course, is your response to that one—what else do you go to college for? And what kind of an education? This is serious business—we've got seniors here that don't know the answer to that one.

Why are you really going into this big business of college (if you don't think it's big business, you'd better take a look at the budget you've got outlined)?

Is it because that's what has been expected of you since you toddled around waving a college banner in your hand for the relatives? If that's all you can think of to justify this extensive preparation you've been making, and the money's there, go right ahead—but it might be handy to think of some other reason for this higher education kick.

Is it because the rest of "the gang" is all set to go—has been since high school commencement last spring—and you'd be just lost without them? In that case, you'd better start looking at yourself. Chances are that you might even be better off at home taking that job at the telephone office—the one you spurned because you were "off to college."

Is it the social whirl that has you excited? You just can't wait to wade into it—rushing, the parties, the house dances, desserts—the kids in the class of '56 came back last year and told you all about their freshman year

and you KNOW it's going to be your whole life. Maybe so, again, we have seniors who think the same way—but not too many seniors; they don't usually last that long with that type of an idea.

Or is it that you know you can make the team, be elected president, show 'em all how it's done? If that's it, fine, we need people who can do these things. But what about the stuff that goes along with it? Can you take the books, the profs, the tests too? If you're not sure, you might have done the right thing if you'd gone into the army with that bunch from your class in July.

But if you've made it this far with a straight face and a clean conscience, you're not quite finished yet. Take a look at that cartoon in the first two columns to the right; it's worth more than a laugh.

And some folks may think it's a bit of treason for us to suggest it, but you might be in the wrong institution of higher learning. Try that why once again. Why did you choose Oregon?

Sure, you can go down the list again: the gang is all coming, it's been "expected" of you, you've heard about the "country club" and it's for you. But can you say that seriously?

If you've decided on a major field, fine. But don't count on that one entirely—you're still young; we all are. That's why the University has the general liberal arts course requirements for your freshman and sophomore years. And don't be afraid to follow a change in preference indicated by a like or dislike in one of these courses—even if it leads you out of Oregon to some other school.

In summary, remember, once again, that this is big business. You'd probably give a car quite a bit of test drive if you were going to spend as much on it as you figure to drop in just your first year at Oregon. But you've probably not given Oregon much of a "test drive" at all—except in a few cases like that social life or the campus fire tree placement.

And that's why we wanted you to sit down for a moment. We want you at Oregon, sure, but you can do us—and yourself—more good if you know what you're doing here. That's why you ought to know the importance of the why.

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'Rush' Is the Word

There's more truth than poetry to that word "rush" here at Oregon—especially this year. If the whole rushing situation is enough of a confuser in the first place, you've got it hitting you in the face the first thing when you get here. And if you're a gal, you've got to get here a whole week early just to get hit by it.

So just what can we say from our editorial pulpit by way of wisdom for the prospective rushee?

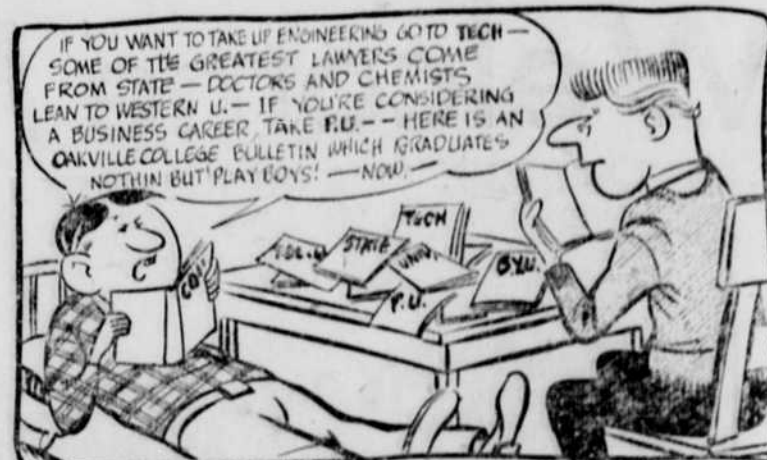
We might offer consolation for the poor gal who has to come so early—and might be disappointed by the "wrong" house? Or for the poor fellow who has to go through rush, get oriented, registered and tested all at the same time—New Student Week. We might tell you that this is just a "one-time" situation—that we have an "unusual" football

schedule with two consecutive Portland games and that this was the only way they could work it. We might say that it hasn't been this way before and it should not be again.

But this isn't going to be of much help to you one way or another. You're going to get in the "right" house or you're not—and you'll be confused no matter what. Unless... and there's no rule against it... you decide to wait this whole business out and look them all over, then rush some time later.

But whatever you do—whether our consolation helps you or not—we hope you'll take note of the whole confusing situation (it's just as hard on us) and see what you can do about getting a later, more sensible deferred rushing date set up in succeeding years.

OAKVILLE, Not Oregon



Second Thoughts

In 'With the Rest of Us,' The Emerald Takes a Part

Before we wind this thing up once and for all, there are a number of "on second thoughts" that we'd better insert here for you, the new Oregon frosh.

It won't be long until you're right in here with the rest of us—sweating out the first midterms, wondering about that blind date, dodging the quad sprinklers (it'll take three years of practice), dashing off for the weekend home, ogling the "latest" in the campus fashion house windows, wondering why you took this course, wondering how you can get into that course.

And right in here with the rest of us, it's great! It's Oregon! And that's where we, as The Emerald, come in.

The Emerald belongs to the students and actually IS the students more than just the hundred or so who slave over their labor of love.

How is it yours? Well, to take one instance, it's your campus bulletin board—changed daily! You'll get the habit of checking "Campus Briefs" and the "Campus Calendar" every day to find out what's up for that group you just joined or that class that was going to have a special meeting.

It's your entertainment—part of it, anyway. Long John Lengel, our entertainment specialist (he's a real live social chairman, too) talked about everything around us, but forgot us. Even old Jaundiced John is entertaining reading when he gets wound up about a movie; watch for him.

And watch for Jerry Ramsey, our allegorical sports editor (he occasionally turns to epic poetry); he'll have more of the

"corn on the rocks" type humor he shows in this issue (discount this first attempt, he says—claims he spent too much time close to the bride this summer).

And this corner here is pretty good at humor—or even the intellectual subjects—as it changes from hand to hand daily. Keep an eye on these columnists.

The Emerald is also your conscience. And as conscience generally run, we'll probably spend more time (through the editorials, of course) trying to get you pointed in the right direction than patting you on the head for being pointed that way.

But The Emerald is first of all news—news of and for all of the campus and campus-related events, organizations and people.

And if you think we're falling down in any of these areas, then The Emerald is you—through the Letters to the Editor column (a feature of this page), you can express your criticism (bad or good) of anything about The Emerald or about the campus for that matter.

Remember these little thoughts; we think you'll appreciate them and The Emerald once you're right in here with the rest of us.

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