

Why a Charter Day?

And just why a Charter Day in the first place? What's the idea behind suspending the complex operation of a modern university just to consider the past? Apparently there is some reason for it or we would not have begun this now-annual "tradition" two years ago, whether we had to provide suitable sideline action for a presidential inauguration or not.

Certainly it is salutary to pause and remember the small group of Eugene citizens who fought so vigorously for an institution of higher education some eighty years ago. But what value is there in the commemoration when many students—and faculty—pay little attention to the goings-on if they are aware of the meaning?

Is then Charter Day nothing more than an opportunity for those interested mem-

bers of the faculty to display their colorful processional regalia? Is it only a chance for all too few members of the University and surrounding community to pick up some free culture at University expense?

This criticism of Charter Day may be well-founded, but it does not invalidate the commemoration itself. There will certainly be benefits to be carried away from the two major addresses, if the student cares to spend the "free class cut" time given him.

But whether or not student convocation attendance reaches a record height (and we sincerely hope it does), Charter Day will have been a success if a student can derive, from the occasion of the observance only, something of the meaning behind the institution that is the University of Oregon.

Painless Giving

Campus living organizations will be contacted this week for contributions to the United Appeal, with the goal set for \$3,000—an individual donation of 65 cents.

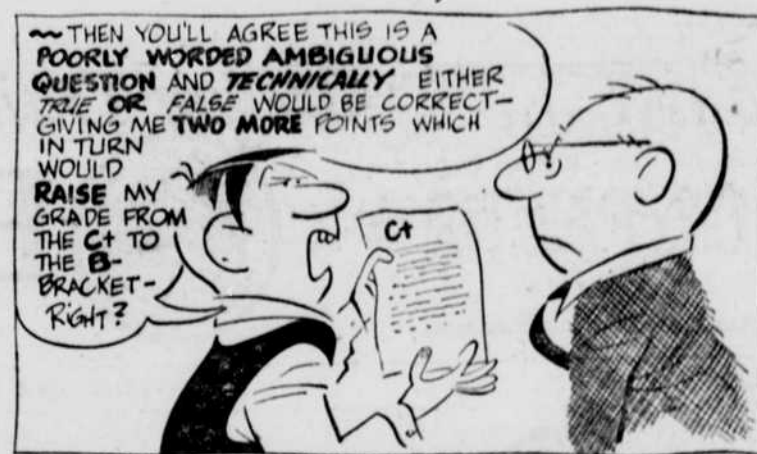
Before the United Appeal plan, students were contacted periodically for contributions to individual causes. Now all the major organizations depending on community contributions are grouped together for one big fund-raising drive, known as the United Appeal.

Money collected in the drive is distributed between the agencies, including the Red

Cross, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army and the Pearl Buck Home for Mentally Retarded Children.

This year, there is no competition between individual houses. This is as it should be, for there should be no competitive stimulus in giving to charity. Contributions should be made entirely on merit of the charity and on the individual's feeling.

Sophomore service honoraries will bring information around to the living organizations this week and will return Friday for collections. Could any fund-raising drive be made more painless?



Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

As a matter of curiosity, might one new to the University of Oregon inquire into the seating arrangements for students at football games?

It was rather disconcerting to arrive a half-hour before the ball game and find that there were no seats available. Even though large tracts of seats were empty. Upon inquiry one was informed that these were reserved for "fraternity men."

If this is the case, and it

would seem to be so, why were not empty seats at one end of the stands made available, or a portion of the reserved section across the way which appeared to be only half full at the beginning of the game?

Oregon has a very fine team, which is admirably managed. Why can't some of this efficiency rub off in the management of the seating program?

Joseph L. Beatty
Graduate in History

William Cook

Portland 'Home Games' Necessary for Big-Time Athletics

It's unfortunate that the Oregon Legislature, when it chartered the University in 1872, did not have the foresight to locate the school in a metropolitan center like Portland. They should have foreseen the necessity of locating the University in an area which

would have enough people to support a college football team.

But such was not the case. The University was located in Eugene, a city which—84 years after the University was chartered—can still only furnish relatively low football gate receipts. Relative, that is, to the cities of most other members of the league in which Oregon plays.

The practical result of this is the schedule of "home" games which Oregon is playing this year. Three of these six games scheduled are in Portland—125 miles from the campus. Paradoxically, an Oregon student could go to Corvallis to an "away" game and travel fewer miles.

This has bothered many stu-

dents. They have to spend the money to travel to Portland, arrange transportation and stay overnight to see the best "home" games. And the process requires the better part of a week-end.

"Do you want Oregon to play in a league with Willamette University?" This answer by the Athletic department succinctly summarizes the reason for Portland games.

The facts of life for the Athletic department are, it seems, hard. Oregon is a small school in comparison to most other members of the Pacific Coast Conference. And the University is located in a small metropolitan area which makes for poor gate receipts at Hayward Field.

Consider the situation: If 10 per cent of the people in the Emerald Empire attend a local game, the paid attendance would still be only 10,000 (students are not, for financial purposes, paid attendance). And the figure is usually much lower.

This places Oregon at a disadvantage in scheduling games. Leo Harris, athletic director, related in an interview that Pittsburgh would only play the University at Portland. It just was not worth it to them to play in Eugene. One could speculate on just why they play the game.

Individual members of the PCC put pressure on the University to schedule their games in Portland at least every other year. And the reason is the same. Harris said their "take-home" pay was usually at least three times as much for Portland games.

Stanford took \$30,000 home from their last Portland game, Harris said, and only \$12,000 from their last Eugene game. UCLA took \$29,000 from Portland and \$9,000 from Eugene in their last games with Oregon.

A somewhat different situation exists in the games with the University of Washington, which are all played in Portland. The location allows students from both schools to attend.

This year, it's true, is an unusual year in that three Portland games are scheduled. This, Harris explained, is because we had an extra game on the schedule (Pittsburgh) which was played in Portland. Next year only one Portland game will be played. Two Portland games will be played in 1959 and one in 1960, according to present schedules.

The Athletic department, if its presuppositions are correct, must field teams in a league such as the PCC to please students and alumni. Hence the necessity for Portland "home" games. Besides, Harris said, since Oregon is a state university, we owe it to the taxpayers to play some games where large numbers of them can watch (but the teams are not tax-supported).

Another factor is that gate receipts from football and basketball pay for varsity sports which produce virtually no profit such as track, wrestling, golf, tennis, baseball, swimming and bowling, "which the students want." The reasons, then,

for Portland games are entirely financial.

Athletics in colleges today is a big business dealing in hundreds of thousands—or even millions—of dollars. Departments of athletics are completely self-supporting. Game gate receipts pay for coaches and a staff, athletic facilities (Oregon's athletic program has paid \$500,000 in campus athletic facilities during the past few years) and players (in the form of grants-in-aid and athletic "scholarships").

The only real differences between college and professional athletics are that college athletes must also be students supposedly working toward a degree and that the athletic program exists within the framework of an academic institution. The question rises of their mutual compatibility.

One group holds that college athletics are traditional and hence, necessary. The "big game" is part of the American university culture along with dating, fraternities and beer.

The other group more or less agrees with Emerald Columnist Dave Cass when he said, "... a university consists, or at least it should consist, of a hard core of academic study in which social life and athletics are only 'fringe benefits'."

The first group also maintains that good teams build the name of the university and so attract good students. Their reasoning on this point has never been too clear. Perhaps their definition of a good student is one who considers the "hard core of academic study" a "fringe benefit."

This much can be said for college athletics in general and in particular here at the University: Games are being played and scheduled with the ends of

winning and profiting at whatever the cost to the real values of the institution and to the student.

Oregon can at least say that within this professional framework, the University has not resorted to the extreme methods of some other PCC members. But then, the Athletic department is complaining about high admission standards for out-of-state ballplayers.

Perhaps its time again to look at the old adage, "Win or lose, the game's the thing." This says little about spectators or profits.

Then we should ask students, "Why did you come to college?"

Our Contemporaries

(ACP)—"Help! I'm being held a prisoner!" said the little note one fellow found between his new license plates, relates the Hardin-Simmons University Brand, Abilene, Texas.

He wasn't surprised. He knew the plates were made in the state penitentiary.

"It's not hard to stop smoking," comments University of Toledo Campus Collegian editor Moni Dominique. "The difficult part comes in keeping yourself from starting again."

If you think you have a problem, consider the situation at Texas A&M. That school doesn't have any coeds and the men claim it's not unusual to drive 200 miles for a date. But don't feel sorry for them. The men conducted a poll and decided it's best not to mix education with women.

And this list of girls' curfew hours for week nights at the University of Ontario. Freshmen—1:30; Sophomores—2:30; Juniors—3:30. No hours listed for seniors; apparently they don't have to come in at all.

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