

## No Need for Lists

So for Homecoming Week we're supposed to go dutifully through with the instructions of the printed and spoken word—and become suddenly-faithful tradition-observers. Why?

As the Medford Mail-Tribune said, traditions are not printed in lists and are most certainly not connected with "violation" and "punishment."

Unfortunately, for anyone to even realize a tradition exists these days, communications of media are needed. In the days of smaller student bodies, a more compact University community led to a traditional spirit quite naturally.

This is not to suggest that more students necessarily mean an abandonment of former traditions. Rather more interests and diverse backgrounds (increasing each year) have led to more apathy than in bygone days.

What price tradition? We consider them valuable to the University, enforced or not. They may be related, ideally, to the customs of a small community. They fulfill a need leading to that intangible end—real school spirit and character.

Again, traditions cannot be forced on anyone. They must be wanted, must be appreciated, and must be observed. That they must be continued is certain.

No university or college of any stature lacks traditions. The University has traditions—as well as acknowledged stature. They go together.

## Same Old Problem

The recent failure of the amendment election to draw enough votes to make it valid points up once again the apathy surrounding student government on our campus. The fact that the majority of University students show little interest in student government is nothing new, but it hits home again with renewed force.

The objective observer would think that at least one-third of the student body would come out to vote without extensive prodding. But in the four elections held on the amendment, three of them failed due to an insufficient number of votes cast. In the other election, a three-day affair held last spring, the amendment passed, but was contested successfully.

The apathy which surrounds student government also affects other activities. Athletic

letic "school spirit" can't be generated unless we have a winning team, and a momentary slump, such as the football game with Washington, brings back the pessimistic "oh, what's the use" spirit. Even in club and committee work many people are afraid to put forth ideas, for the moment they do, they're made chairman of that committee.

The ASUO Senate now is once again faced with the current muddle in elections for ASUO and class officers. The complicated preferential system as it operates today will probably govern the spring elections, which means that candidates for president in both ASUO and class elections will gain a disproportionate number of positions. The proposed amendment would have given candidates for ASUO senator and class representative posts a fairer chance.

The next vote on the amendment will probably be held in spring elections, for a special election wouldn't bring out nearly enough voters.

In the five months until the election, we hope that the ASUO Senate and other interested parties will study the amendment carefully, and the Senate should carefully consider any ideas for revision.

The Senate also has a public relations job ahead of it in the weeks to come. Students at present do not feel close to the problems of student government to be concerned. And student interest should prod the Senate to action.

A sincere study of the amendment should bring new ideas to light. We hope that this recent defeat will produce a little constructive and cooperative action from more than one side which will develop a satisfactory amendment and general student interest in the ASUO processes.

## Footnotes

Overheard in SU coffee line: "Wonder how many cups of this stuff you could drink in one day before it killed you?"

\* \* \*

Hear they had quite a little earthquake shock up at Corvallis the other day. Some have suggested that it was Stanford that brought that Bay area fault block up to harass the Beavers in case the football Indians couldn't do the trick. But we know better. It's only just desserts for that "O" theft. You're lucky none of your Black Bandits were swallowed up, OSC. Crime doesn't pay.

## Homecoming Ensemble



"NAW, I DIDN'T RENT IT—I'M JUST LUCKY TO HAVE A ROOMMATE WHO OWNS A TUX."

## William Cook

### Students Forget Alumni In 'Homecoming' Confusion

It's time to change the name of Homecoming to something more appropriate. The alumni are being forgotten in the rush of student activities. Eight activities are scheduled for Friday, and only one—registration (to determine which student living group gets a trophy)—directly involves the returning alumni. Friday evening the alumni are being sent downtown to a Eugene hotel dinner-dance so students can have their fun on campus unencumbered by alumni.

The same situation is found on Saturday, when more than ten activities are planned. The alumni will have a luncheon at noon, buffet style. They will certainly consider themselves well entertained after waiting in long lines to receive their food.

The game, of course, will be a big alumni attraction. This is the one Homecoming activity that alumni are being strongly encouraged to attend. The reason for this is obvious, with tickets priced at \$5 each for end zone seats.

Saturday evening the alumni will be sent downtown again to another dinner-dance, thus taking care of them for the evening. (One could wonder what those alumni who don't care to drink will do.)

If the alumni, in spite of the clever scheduling, get onto the campus, they will notice that besides new buildings, new traditions have sprung up. Even last year's graduates will notice this, as the Order of the O and the Homecoming committee have decided that henceforth it will be traditional to wear Homecoming buttons.

Other traditions, more deeply ingrained in the student culture (they were legislated last year) will be noticed by the alumni as Order of the O neanderthals enforce the "traditions" vigorously.

It's always been my understanding that traditions were something handed down from the past, neither to be legislated nor enforced.

All this will lend a phony at-

mosphere to the weekend when everyone should be geared to entertain, on campus, the returning alumni.

Homecoming weekend is the one time set aside during the year when alums are invited to return and visit the scenes of their undergraduate years. They are, of course, interested in looking up old classmates, but they are more interested in seeing and learning of the University as it exists today.

It would pay the students (if other, higher motivations are to be forgotten) to entertain the alumni royally.

Alumni are often asked to contribute their time and especially their money to projects directly or indirectly benefitting the University. They are not likely to want to cooperate if the memories of their one campus visit—Homecoming—are unpleasant.

Many alumni are in influential positions around the state and the Northwest, and their timely support is often very helpful to the University's programs.

Alumni who are convinced that Oregon is a good university, based on their present observations (if their observations lead them to believe this), can persuade promising high school students to enroll here.

And from the view-point of our own self-interest, we should treat the alums well. In the not-too-distant future, we'll all be alumni returning for Homecoming. If the activities planned for us then are like those planned this year, we'll not want to return often for Homecoming.

Students have plenty of opportunity for mass participation in events like Junior Weekend. Homecoming weekend should be reserved for the alumni.

## Our Contemporaries

(ACP)—Automation has invaded the field of eraser cleaning, says the Louisiana State University Daily Reveille. The Little Giant Electric Eraser Cleaner is the machine now replacing the traditional pounding sessions collegians knew as grade schoolers.

The Little Giant resembles a vacuum cleaner and tidies one eraser every three seconds.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Emerald Editor:

The Emerald's concern over the "myth" of "country club" evinced in the "Fight on our Hands" editorial and William Cook's column of November 14 is justified but incomplete. I recognize that the expression "country club" is a myth and not representative of the school or its purpose.

It occurs to me, however, that the public is amply justified in accepting this myth. For how else would you explain the concern over painting forays, deferred and und deferred rush week, picayune disputes over

the sacred icon "O," and the retaliatory abduction of simplifying coeds, faithfully reported and commented on by The Emerald and other Oregon newspapers?

How are the recent pleasantries between University "representatives" and a Eugene policeman to be explained? Do you wonder that the public is credulous of the "myth" enshrouding Oregon? Is it to be wondered that the reading public concludes that Oregon is a country club?

The threat of an invasion into

"dry zone" territory by beer out-lets does not serve to perpetuate a myth already firmly grounded. Students at Oregon and other schools enjoy drinking beer without making an absurd club fetish of it.

In the case of Oregon, beer drinking is little more than a reflection which superimposes itself over the fundamental facade of "country club." Why make beer a whipping boy? Some very serious students enjoy Friday nights at the pub. Because some groups make beer drinking orgies a part of their "tradition" does not in itself justify attack on an occasion of simple relaxation.

If beer is at fault, and closures enforced, will this prevent the week-end saturnalias of societies or might it just serve to transfer these activities down the road a mile? If the latter is true, will The Emerald publish obituaries of drivers unable to return from their weekly "myth" causing jollities?

Fred H. Stenkamp  
Graduate in History

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