

Hazing: Is It a Problem?

Little can be gained by passage of the bill which would make hazing on Oregon college campuses a misdemeanor. True, sadistic hazing cannot be condoned, but before such a bill is passed the State legislature should determine its possible usefulness. Is it needed? Can it be enforced? And, does it add anything to what is being done already to abolish whatever hazing exists?

IN BRIEF, the bill states that "No person in attendance at an educational institution in this state shall conspire to haze, attempt to haze or engage in hazing which is the commission of any act that injures, degrades or disgraces any person attending the institution." In an unusually lucid and penetrating style, it adds "No person in charge of or teaching in an educational institution in this state shall permit an act of hazing or of attempting to haze any person attending the institution."

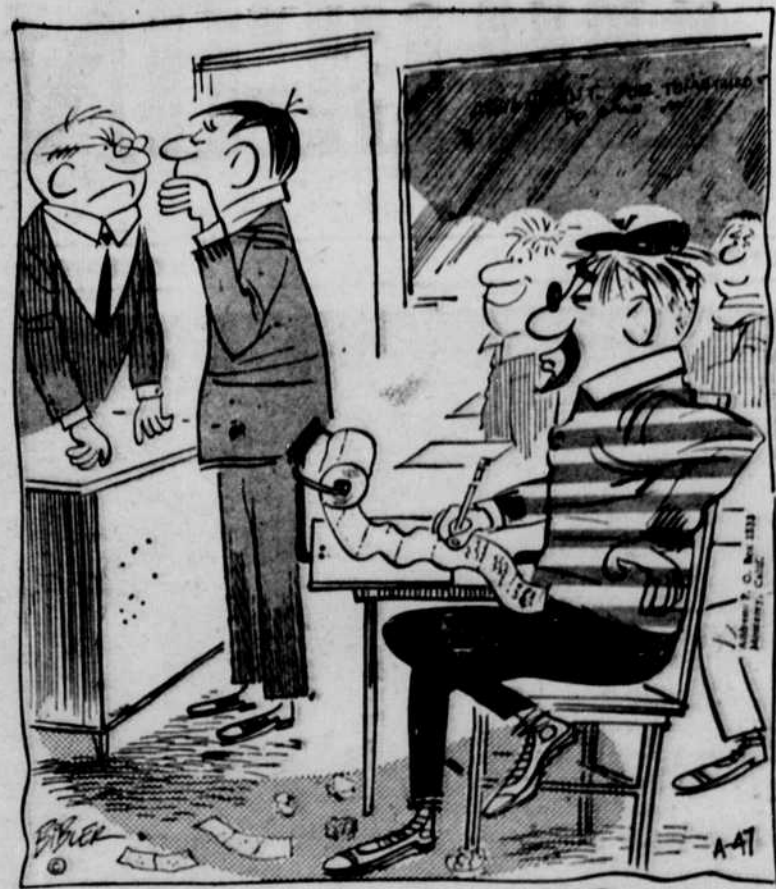
These sentiments cannot be disputed. But consider what they imply. They imply that on the campuses in this state there is at least the possibility of the existence of degraded, disgraced, and even injured students tormented by what are apparently sadistic monsters while administrators, who must certainly be corrupt to allow such goings on, knowingly permit the situation to exist. With these implications we must take issue. While not positive about the condition of the students, we are quite sure that the ad-

ministrators, at least on this campus, are not corrupt.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS is whether we gain anything from this bill. The bill is a statement that the ill treatment of students by other students should not be permitted. This seems obvious. But it still doesn't tell us where having fun ends and being bad begins. Neither does it tell us the location of the thin line between embarrassing a person and disgracing him, making him feel ridiculous and degrading him, or giving him a few brief moments of pain and injuring him.

Nor will the proposal provide a needed tool to the administrators who can already dangle the threat of suspension or expulsion over the heads of wayward students. Administrators already have all the incentive and ability to eliminate hazing which this law would give to them by threat of court action. Besides, hazing doesn't appear to be that much of a problem, at least according to the ASUO Senate Student Relations and Communications Committee which recently resolved to so inform the ASUO Senate.

In short, then, we see little use in the proposed law. It tells us nothing we didn't know and forbids nothing that wasn't already forbidden. Neither is the proposal, itself, clear on just what it would forbid. It gives the decision as to what should be abolished to the administration, and that's where the final say is already.



"HE'S NOT REALLY HARD UP FOR PAPER—IT'S JUST RUGPAD'S WAY OF SUGGESTING YOU TAKE MORE TIME IN PREPARING FOR YER LECTURES!"

Paul Dull

'True University Education Includes Many Things...'

By **PAUL DULL**
Professor of History

A true university education includes many things, the absence of any one element debasing it, but the presence of any one part not guaranteeing it. It is with this understanding that I state my case by request of the Emerald's editor for the use of the kind of essay test that I employ in my classes.

I BELIEVE in the essay problem form of examination. An examination is more than a means of testing a student's knowledge of specific subjects studied, or the testing of his memory, or the testing of his scholastic industry since the last examination, or the testing of his intelligence quotient, or the application of the hickory stick. If constructed properly, it can be an additional step in the educational process. If it is merely the former things, I surely believe our gadgeteers could work out the proper machinery and formulae wherein we could correlate a student's IQ, his industry, and his interest in the subject to work out an equitable and admirable class curve with no examination whatsoever. If it is the latter, it can do these things perhaps slightly less well, but it can also attain other goals better. It can take emphasis of rote memory of lectures and texts to place emphasis upon how to use the "facts" to analyze problems, how to relate facts in one context to problems in another.

In essence, I believe that is why students being graduated from the College of Liberal Arts are preferred by employers to students who do not have a university degree. In a hypothetical case, I gravely doubt if personnel managers of General Motors hire our students because of the subject matter taken in the four years of university work. Surely they wouldn't be personnel managers if they weren't realists, and as realists they must admit the amount of "facts" retained for instant use is rather minuscule. I can name one in my own experience: the battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. Then why are our graduates chosen? I believe because the university degree is indication that students are

trained so that they may be given problems, understand how and where to find the relevant data first to state the problem correctly and then to solve it effectively. Substantive essay questions, and by this I do not mean those that ask a student to state the four (was it four?) causes of the Crusades, give university students this training.

A SECOND major benefit accruing to essay examinations is teaching literacy, and if that be accomplished, literary ability. I am constantly both amazed and dejected at the lack of both in many students exposed to essay questions in my courses. A university education can never be attained if one's knowledge must be constantly tested only by lines drawn by a graphite pencil, by the marking of an X, or a choice between writing T or F, or by drawing a circle around or a line under a word or phrase. If any colleague believes this invidious comparison or facetious derision, I welcome his help on grading my next essay examinations. I shall set aside the papers of those students whose backgrounds have consisted chiefly of courses in which "objective" tests are utilized. I shall also keep handy for him a potion of stimulants for he will need them. One can only learn to write by writing

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OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published four times in September and five days a week during the school year, except during examination and vacation periods, by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per year, \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of The Emerald and do not pretend to represent the opinion of the ASUO or the University.

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Quentin Breen

Senator Calls NSA Decision Unfortunate

By **QUENTIN BREEN**
Senator-at-Large

Last week the ASUO Senate went on record as opposing membership in NSA. The major reason presented for non-membership was that the Senate should devote its efforts to campus problems, and not be concerned with the problems of national scope in which an organization such as the National Student Association is involved.

IT IS unfortunate that the student representatives of a supposedly intellectual community such as the University of Oregon should be of such an opinion. Although we are a part of the campus community, we are members of a larger group, a responsibility which we cannot ignore. And as members of this larger group we should have an interest in its problems and issues, especially those which directly effect the constituency of the Senate — the students of the University of Oregon. Surely the Senate could devote at least as much time and consideration to the disclaimer affidavit provision of National Defense Scholarships as it does to the sending of the rally squad to the Liberty Bowl.

It is to be hoped that the Senate will reconsider its responsibilities and realize that we can't always remain in the comfortable womb of security which is the University community. In most other countries the University student not only has more interest, but has considerably more influence in the national government than we have. This situation is not improved by attitudes expressed by student governments such as ours which shrug off all interest and responsibility for anything of national scope. For us to deny a concern about national affairs in favor of our internal situation is shameful.

THE FIRST step would be for the Senate to realize its re-

sponsibilities to its constituency in questions of national scope. Having made the decision to become interested and involved in this sphere, a decision as to the best means of becoming informed and most effectively making our opinions felt where it counts is in order.

Possibly NSA is not the most effective means of accomplish-

ing this. However, the Senate must consider all the alternatives open to it and make its decision on the basis of which organization or means will best suit its need for information and expression of opinion. The important thing is that the Senate realize its obligations in the area of national affairs and act accordingly.

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

The article concerning plans for the new stadium which appeared on the front page of Friday's Emerald is worthy of some comment. Hayward Field is outdated and far too small. This is shown by the perennial problem of student seating. The aid of the Alumni Association in this endeavor will be invaluable because of their great prestige. Their financial aid will eliminate the otherwise prohibitive cost of this much needed addition to the University of Oregon. Congratulations Alums.

R. J. Carsner,
Junior in English.

Emerald Editor:

I have been considering the plans for the new 40,000 seat stadium. If some speculation will be tolerated, I'd like to present some supporting arguments for such a stadium which were not included in Friday's article. I simply submit them for the sake of the record.

FIRST, the proposed site is quite close to both the University and downtown Eugene. Convenient access will be available from freeways now completed or in the construction stages.

Second, such a stadium would be of value to groups far beyond the University itself. Events of all kinds can be imagined.

THIRD, with an adequate stadium Eugene could conceivably

become one of the great centers for Northwest sporting events, competing with now famous "Bowl cities" for New Year's Day Games and the like.

Fourth, the revenue derived not only from gate receipts but from out-of-town visitors would be a boon to local merchants.

FIFTH, the proposed design seems like a style setter. Its combined uniqueness and soundness will certainly influence the designs of other stadiums throughout the country.

Sixth and last, such a stadium will be an incentive for a broader athletic and recreation program at the University.

Alan Berg,
Grad in Biology Student.

Emerald Editor:

Although the new University of Oregon 40,000 seat stadium will not be completed while I'm still an undergraduate, I'm very happy to hear that plans are already well on their way. In the last few months we've been hearing a lot about new dormitories and classrooms, but hardly anything is mentioned about new recreation and athletic facilities (Millrace notwithstanding). Consider the proposed school population explosion by 1970. Will Hayward Field be adequate for the crowds? Probably not. It's already overcrowded now.

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