

ROTC on the docket

The time is getting near for the perennial ROTC issue to come up again. The State Board of Higher Education, earlier faced with the problem of making it uniformly voluntary or compulsory for both Oregon and Oregon State, deferred action until its January 1962 meeting. That isn't far off.

AS IT STANDS now, the University faculty has gone on record in favor of the voluntary program. The Oregon State faculty favors a compulsory program. Both schools are on a compulsory (a two-year required basic course for all fit entering men) basis now.

University President Arthur Flemming has indicated that he favors the voluntary approach. His only experience with ROTC was when he was President of Ohio Wesleyan University where it was on a voluntary basis.

FLEMMING SAYS he's convinced that all services will get a much better quality officer on the voluntary basis. This is almost indisputable, although one might question the loss of well-qualified officer material simply because of the failure to expose young men through a compulsory program to the advantages of the program.

This, Flemming concedes, is one of the big problems. The only realistic approach

to it, he believes, is for an ROTC "selling job" to be done before freshman men come to school. And even that, it would appear, would have certain disadvantages to a regular, two-year exposure to the program.

Several kinds of sentiment towards ROTC has been reflected on this campus—but none recently. Most of the passion directed at it a couple of years ago was nothing more than youthful rebellion against the idea of being compelled to do something more than against the idea of the program itself. In files of exchange college newspapers we often find the fight against ROTC in full swing. It's a national editorial pastime, it seems.

WE'D BE RELUCTANT to criticize the philosophy behind the program that in fact produces the majority of all military officers in the service today. It's pretty difficult to argue that ROTC isn't necessary when the national guard units in most of the hometowns from which we come have been called to active duty.

But all the same, the idea of a voluntary program still has its appeal. Flemming even feels, from associations with high-ups in the Pentagon when he was in Washington, that the voluntary philosophy is a coming thing nationwide. We'll see in January if Oregon joins the trend.

Not so good

(Reprinted from the Eugene Register-Guard)

On the face of it, Sen. Robert Straub had what sounded like a plausible suggestion—use athletic reserves to bail higher education out of its financial crisis. Like many ideas, however, this one isn't so good on close scrutiny.

In the first place, some of that money doesn't really belong to the state. It was given to the universities and colleges for specific athletic purposes and must be held in trust for those purposes. Other money was extracted from the students, also with the understanding that it would go for the athletic plant.

In the second place there is no guarantee that the state would pay the money back, once it was "borrowed" in the manner Sen-

ator Straub suggested. One never knows what another Legislature will do. And that includes Senator Straub, who won't be in Salem next session.

In the third place, remember that athletic programs are self-supporting, using no tax money. If they do well and the gravy is skimmed off for general education purposes, would it not be fair to put state money into these programs in years when financial success has not ridden with the programs?

The real answer to the problem, and we are sure Senator Straub would agree, is sufficient state support for an educational program at a level agreed to by the Legislature. The answer will not be found in a frantic wrecking of programs that the Legislature neither inspired nor guided.

Letters to the editor

Pained

Emerald Editor:

I am pained to see that even the Emerald draws a line of distinction between the foreign and American students. No too long ago, the Emerald of November 3, 1961, published that "Candidates" (for the ASUO positions) "will be contacted by the Emerald for interviews with the editorial board between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday. The Emerald's editorial endorsement will depend upon these interviews." No one from the Emerald interviewed the candidates for election as foreign students representative. I would like to know why these candidates were not contacted. Were these candidates not "candidates" in the same sense as were others.

Let me point out another incident, howsoever minor, but of the same nature as the one pointed above. In the Emerald of November 2, 1961, all election results were given coverage under "Election Tally" but for reasons best known to the Emerald the results of primary for the foreign students representative were omitted.

It is sad realization that the Emerald does not consider the foreign students a part of the student body of the University

of Oregon. Surprisingly the Emerald writes about discrimination on the one hand and practices it, though perhaps unintentionally and inadvertently, on the other.

Bhagwait Poddar
Foreign Students' Representative

Too much criticism
Emerald Editor:

There are many good qualities that I have noticed about the Emerald that are too often overlooked in appraising our paper. You have some very well written articles of interest and thought, good campus coverage, and usually a good coverage of coming events. However, the paper does have some questionable habits.

The Emerald has criticized the effectiveness of the Senate and of the rally. It has also criticized school spirit. Perhaps now is a good time for the Emerald staff to step back and look at the Emerald, especially in respect to the other student organizations. The most important question to ask is, aside from the basic coverage of the news, what good is the Emerald contributing to the University? Concerning school apathy, the paper has defined and presented it clearly, but could it take posi-

tive action to help correct this attitude? We can encourage very few people to run for office by telling them that the organization in which they seek office is worthless or that they themselves are worthless. Such criticism is the basis of apathy. We must be careful, however, for such a problem should never be contributed to one organization. The Senate, the rally, and the Emerald all contribute their share.

All newspapers have the obligation to a free society to question and, perhaps, criticize civic activities. However, a newspaper must never become an omnipotent father who continually corrects or at least criticizes each action taken by civic organizations. If a paper does degenerate to this depth, then it could benefit the community more by closing its doors. Our student paper does contribute greatly to our University in keeping the different student organizations on their toes. But it, too, must be careful not to let the paper become overly critical. It often takes a much better person or organization to appreciate the good in another than to criticize his failings. Our daily paper has a splendid chance for positive action. I sin-

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Little man on campus



"AS PART OF OUR NEW 'GET TOGETHER' ACADEMIC POLICY—NOW YOU REALLY MUST FULLFULL THE MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS OR YOU FLUNK."

Wall Street on campus

Mutual fund investments generally more secure

By DENNIS STEEN

QUESTION: How much of an investment advantage over individual stock purchases do mutual funds offer the amateur investor?

ANSWER: For the most part, funds offer the average investor a larger amount of security than do most individual stocks. The growth rate of mutual funds has been very steady and above that of most stocks over the past ten years. Of course, there are exceptions to this, but some of the most widely known mutual funds have more than tripled in value over the past ten years. I think an investment in a mutual fund is a good idea for the person who wishes to invest on a monthly basis.

QUESTION: What is the minimum amount you can invest in mutual funds?

ANSWER: The price per share of most mutual funds ranges between \$5 and \$20. The investor may invest as much or as little as he wishes. He may invest on a monthly basis or purchase so many shares outright.

QUESTION: How can you get in touch with a mutual fund salesman?

ANSWER: There are over 40,000 mutual fund salesmen in the United States and you can find their names by looking them up in the yellow pages. Some of the better known mutual funds are Massachusetts Investor's Growth Fund, The Keystone Funds, The United Funds, and the Hamilton Funds.

Readers may recall that in last Monday's column I mentioned that Studebaker-Packard was a good low-priced investment. After the column came out, the point was raised by a reader that Studebaker-Packard had experienced a considerable drop in the value of its price over the last several months.

Apparently the reader purchased the stock when it was selling in the \$15 to \$29 range during 1959-1960. Since that time, Studebaker-Packard had experienced some extremely hard blows and fell from a high of \$24½ in 1960 to a low this

year of \$7 per share.

THE REASON I mentioned Studebaker-Packard is that I feel that Studebaker-Packard's troubles have been greatly over-emphasized and that greener pastures are just around the corner. Many investors have already realized this as shown by its rise in price from its low of \$7 per share earlier this year to its current price of \$12 per share. The company has an extremely strong financial position as its current assets are \$96,000,000 and current liabilities are \$33,000,000. This is a very healthy 3 to 1 ratio. Studebaker-Packard now has a new management team and has been acquiring several new small companies.

It is interesting to note that between Monday and Thursday of last week, the stock moved from \$11 up to \$12 per share. I would point out that this is an increase of just under 10 per cent in the value of the reader's holdings in less than a week. I think the readers will agree that 10 per cent in one week is much better than is four per cent interest per year in a savings account at the bank.

(Address questions you'd like answered on the stock market to Dennis Steen, c/o The Emerald, 301 Allen Hall.)

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