

Letters to the Editor

A Longer Break

Emerald Editor:

Perhaps you are aware of the fact that in addition to the 50-minute classes on our campus there are also 2-hour and 3-hour sessions which are either seminar courses or regular class meetings. Some of these marathon sittings are held in the evenings between the uncomfortable hours of 7 and 10.

While attending one such 3-hour class I discovered that after two hours I failed to concentrate on the lecture—the reason being that I got tired and hungry and needed some refreshment like a chocolate bar or a coke, to invigorate myself.

Most students on the campus eat between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. and by nine, some of them, including myself, need something to nibble and sip.

It is customary to take a 10-minute break during these classes. This break doesn't give one enough time to run to the SU or even the College Side Inn for a quick snack or even a cup of coffee.

My purpose in writing this letter is therefore, to make a small suggestion. It will be really nice if the university authorities or the ASUO arrange to install coke and candy machines in those buildings, including Allen Hall, where these marathon sessions are held. This will enable the students to refresh themselves during the 10-minute interval. "Food is God for the hungry man," and with it (Food) even books fade into insignificance.

Mohan Goel
Graduate Student
in Journalism

Fraternities Valuable

Emerald Editor:

In your article about hazing, dated Jan. 21, you ask "why are people who participate in such practices regarded as the socially elite, as the leaders of campus life?" Why do you, Mr. Editor, seemingly regard fraternity members as socially elite? Do you feel inferior to fraternity members? You shouldn't, but you should start accepting members as individuals not just "yes-men." You have only stated one classification—the group. You forgot the individual! I don't think that you can find many fraternity members who think they are any better than any man on the street.

Why are groups in fraternities so powerful to oppose as you state? Fraternity and sorority membership does not include by any means a majority of the student body. You mention sororities. What did they have to do with "Hell Week?" Fraternity and sorority activities do not take away from school programs. These activities are scheduled so as to permit participation of members in both without conflict. I bet you will find just as many fraternity men at a "bottom of the bowl dance" as members of the student body at large, and yet the members of the student body at large are far in the majority on this campus.

Do you think the initiation is the whole idea of a fraternity? Your typical "Yellow Press" buildup seems blind to other aspects of fraternal organizations. I do agree with you that many methods are unethical and immoral, though. Something must be done about this, but why don't you remember the brotherhood and citizenship fascilli-

tated by the fraternal organization?

Take a good look at our athletic teams, our student politics, and other activities around campus. The names of fraternity and sorority members are ever-present in all activities. These are people interested in the University of Oregon. If you have ever been around a fraternity house you will know that the many members active in student affairs put these activities and school work before their fraternity activities. Most fraternities encourage this type of individual development!

The general trend on this campus has been to try to clean up initiations in the past few years. Why don't you open up your eyes to the fact that many "houses" have done much to improve initiations. Most of the emphasis is on scholastic aspects and support of school activities in many fraternity initiations.

Why don't you wake up and facilitate school unity and deal with topics in a more objective fashion. Oh! I forgot. You are pretty hard-up for news, aren't you?

Marty Stryker,
Freshman, Business Adm.

Campus Religion

Emerald Editor:

It is obvious from reading the Emerald that only a small number of students attended the religious forum week panels and lectures last week. According to Monday's paper, Jim Orrell, chairman of RF week, gave these as reasons for lack of student attendance: "insufficient publicity, student apathy, or student 'busyness'."

Miss Greenwood offers the cute excuse that "students hear so many lectures in a week, they didn't care to hear more."

There surely was adequate publicity; in every issue of the Emerald last week were enough RF articles to offend the most hardy of us. What more can Mr. Orrell want than front page coverage for a week? The current fad is to blame all our ills on student apathy. Apathy is the lack of emotion or passion; are students unemotional and dispassionate? There are good reasons for this indifference—apathy is not a cause itself. We can still put the blame on "student busyness" but it seems that those students who had any desire to attend RF panels could easily afford an hour or two away from the books, particularly during the second week of a new term. Miss Greenwood's excuse is more amusing than believable. If religion was valued by students, they would look upon RF lectures and academic lectures from wholly different viewpoints and certainly with different feelings.

May I offer an excuse? A good many college students do not want religion and, furthermore, have no need for it. Christianity shouts impossible ideas, curses all forms of earthly pleasure, preaches tradition for the sake of tradition, asks that we pattern our lives after that of a mythical figure older than Beowulf, opposes the dissemination of true facts about Communism, expects us to understand while it deprives us of reality, pleads with us to respect a religion that has committed grievous sins against humanity, gives us such eminent thinkers as Bishop Sheen (there are three kinds of people: good, bad and indifferent),

About Letters

Letters to the editor must be signed and should include, if from a student, the writer's year and major. If not from a student they should contain the writer's position at the University or his address.

There is no maximum length for letters but those under 300 words will be given preferential treatment. Letters should be typewritten and double spaced.

The Emerald will also publish intelligently-written columns of campus or more general interest either by students or faculty members. Columns submitted should also be double spaced. Preferred length is between two and three typewritten pages.

looks with disdain at those who oppose it, invades a primitive tribe and ridicules its sacred beliefs, acts with immaturity in its pleas for "gifts and support," gloats as it gives its annual Christmas basket to some destitute wretch, announces a religious revival without telling us that what little membership gain there it is due to Christianizing the lower classes, cries out that there is one truth! This is the religion we are exposed to. Students are not buying it.

George Davis,
Senior in Psychology.

Hazing Defended

Emerald Editor:

The Army's basic training program is, to a large part, built around practices which, on this campus, would certainly be considered to be hazing. These practices have been found to be a very convenient way of accomplishing certain goals, such as: producing a feeling of unity among the participants; encouraging a spirit of cooperation; promoting the emergence of informal leaders in the mastery of a somewhat artificial task; producing a feeling of unique accomplishment in those who finish. There are others; these are just a few.

Informal initiations in fraternities are allegedly planned with similar goals in mind. Some initiations are foolishly run without adequate attention to these and other goals which are perfectly acceptable and desirable in any society. As in the Army, unfortunate events have occurred in fraternity initiations which are regrettable even to the most wicked, sadistic, stereotyped fraternity man. No rational person will excuse these happenings. Regardless of the admirability of the overall goals of Army basic training and fraternity initiations, there exists the ever-present danger that an unthinking moment on someone's part may result in tragedy.

About two years ago, when the hazing controversy reached its last peak here at Oregon, the IFC Presidents' Council adopted the policy of having the fraternities sign "We don't haze" statements. Most of the houses signed one. Of course, these statements did not mean much because nobody was exactly sure what "hazing" is. Were the fraternities to drop everything that even remotely involved physical or emotional hardship, or were they to include only these things as they were necessary for the accomplishment of the overall goals?

Recently the State Legisla-

ture has nicely solved this problem by defining "hazing" to include just about everything that occurs in an informal initiation. Presidents' Council has chosen, perhaps quite wisely, to submit to public opinion (which is, of course, always right) rather than to try to influence it. Even with little regard to finding a substitute for present initiations, the Council has recognized the necessity of immediate "reform," which involves measures which make the continuation of the old public image "hell week" impossible. These include: 1) Each fraternity must submit a complete outline of its initiation; 2) The hack paddle is completely outlawed; 3) Pledges will be required to spend their nights in dormitories without interference from fraternities; 4) Each initiation is subject to spot checks from an investigation team, consisting partially of outsiders to the fraternity system.

The fraternity system, in an effort to submit to pressures applied, has inflicted a wound on itself that will take some time to heal. Perhaps when this wound heals, and a new form of initiation is discovered, the system will be better than it is now. Perhaps not. This is an ethical question for which I, apart from some individuals, do not pretend to have the answer.

But now, encouraged by the tantrum leading to the resignation of Ken Wilson, Tribunal chairman who is not even living

in a fraternity, there are forces which wish to rub a little bit of salt into this wound. President Flemming has decided to jump into the battle after the dust has settled by announcing his retro-active policy to close all "guilty" fraternities. The Emerald has, as usual, jumped onto the anti-Greek bandwagon by questioning the very character, morality, and motives of any individual who chooses even to think that perhaps initiations are not so evil as they are painted.

I appeal to those individuals who, even in the face of one-sided publicity against the fraternity system, have managed to retain an open mind: Give the fraternity system a chance to solve its own problems. Give it a chance to adjust to having the beliefs of others forced upon it. All fraternity men were independents once themselves. Can they really be so wicked now?

Richard Stone,
Grad. in Accounting.

Editor's Note: The Greek who is editor of the Emerald would like to point out:

1. The State Legislature has not defined hazing.
2. It's a good thing for fraternities it has not.



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...something a little
less serious
by ted mahar

RAW HIDE STORY

Last term, in a weak moment, I foolishly wrote a review of a sacred American institution called West Side Story. I said that the movie treated a serious social problem in a superficial and oversimplified manner. (I should have mentioned that I saw the movie a second time because of the excitement in the photography, dancing, and music.) One critic suggested that I write a musical. He probably figured I couldn't do it. Well, I have a musical all planned.

The first problem I found in writing a musical was a suitable theme about which to write happy, gay, exciting music. I looked over the successes of the past and present. There was "Oklahoma," in which the villain, Jud Fry, burns to death in a haystack. There was "Gypsy," about a stripper and the happy, carefree lives strippers lead. There was "Oliver," based on Dickens' happy book about orphans being trained as criminals. There was "Carousel," in which the hero died committing a crime, and whose orphan finally learned to hold her head up high and walk on, walk on, walk on.

Thus inspired, I decided to write a historical musical. I thought first of Julius Caesar. What a great moment for a musical number when Caesar is cut down on the Senate steps by a group of his friends, I thought. Then there could be the battle of Actium, in which Marc Antony was defeated by Octavius. A great scene for a dance number. But I decided against it. Between Elizabeth Burton and Elizabethan Shakespeare, that ground seems to be pretty well covered.

I decided I must strike out on my own. Then the inspiration hit me: Custer's Last Stand. Of course! No one's ever written a cavalry musical before, and certainly not about Custer.

I mulled over what opportunities there were for songs and dances. There was the time when Autie (as he was known to his friends) graduated 34th in a class of 34 at West Point. He could sing a song entitled "Oh, what a miserable morning, oh what a muddled up day. I got a desolate feeling, nothing is going my way."

Then there's an opportunity for a dance number at the Battle of Bull Run. During the dancing, Custer sings: "I want to flush those Rebs right out of my ranks, I've gotta fight those Rebs right off of my flanks, I'd like to slay those Rebs in bunches and groups, but first, where are my troops?"

In a musical, of course, there is a great need for comic relief, and I have just the thing. I've decided that there are really some great potentialities for humor in the Last Stand. Yellow Hair (as he was known to his enemies) could be the leader of a soldiers' band full of all sorts of comical instruments. Then in the hilarious final scene, all the soldiers would sing, while dancing and dying: "Seventy-two kazoos led the bloody rout, with a hundred and three Jews harps close behind. They were followed by rows of soldiers a-fallin' all about, stag-gering as if both drunk and blind."

When I'm finished with that I think I might tackle a Shakespearean musical after all. Hamlet seems to have a few possibilities . . .

But if Hamlet is a laughing matter, Dairy Queen is not. Out here in the west, where we take our enjoyment seriously, cool heads agree—Dairy Queen is cool. It tastes good and makes the inside of your mouth feel tasty. So, if you are planning a last stand, be sure to take along a lot of Dairy Queen.

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Canoe Fete Job Petitions Due

Petitions are due Monday for all persons interested in working on Canoe Fete.

Positions open are: technical—staging and props, lighting and audio, materials, labor, traffic control, and seating; productions—floats, music, pre-and post-Fete entertainment, and script; promotions—radio and SU, newspaper, flying speech and stunts, and display.