

'Duck Preview'

New Program Offers a Chance To Raise Quality of Student Body

"Duck Preview" will take place this Saturday. For the first time, it will not be an overnight program. More than 750 freshmen and their parents will be on the campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The initiation of this new program, one directed at recruiting the serious high school student, is a significant step for the University.

Change comes hard on this campus, particularly change in a progressive direction. For a long time Duck Preview has been a two-day social, a chance for fraternities and sororities to do some rushing. The emphasis has been on the ball game, the dance, and anything but the classroom.

The reputation of a University has a lot to do with the type of student it attracts. The University has long had a reputation of being a party school, a country club. Previous orientation days have done nothing to change this image.

The University is in a position where any real progress awaits a more serious, scholarly student body. There are those who somewhat justifiably claim that this "more serious student body" will not arrive on this campus until a change in admission standard takes place.

Until the State has built a Community college system, capable of taking the pressure off the state universities, they say,

the quality of our student body will not rise. There is no hope for a more progressive Greek system, for a more realistic dormitory policy, for an improved and academically-oriented student government, until the 2.0 high school students are weeded out before they arrive. A real academic community hinges on this factor, they claim.

This new Duck Preview program is a partial answer to these pessimists. By holding it on a day without a ball game, by taking away the overnight stay, the Greater Oregon committee seems to be moving in the right direction. Our suggestion for the future is to create more such opportunities for high school students to visit, but to organize these on a departmental level, much like what is already done in many schools and departments.

We noticed that the Oregon State Barometer criticized a similar program started at OSU this year. We hope that those involved with the program here, and anyone else coming into contact with high school students this Saturday, will make an attempt to give the innovation an opportunity to prove itself by keeping the activities on a serious academic level.

Duck Preview could become an opportunity to increase significantly the level of academic ability in the University student body.



First Fraternity Column Discusses Pre-initiation Week

Sometime last Spring, the Emerald promised the Inter-Fraternity Council space for a column giving news and views on the Greeks system.

The column will appear every other week.

This first one is by Ed Heaton, chairman of the IFC Greek Newspaper committee, and was submitted Wednesday.

With this edition of the Oregon Greek, a new tradition is being initiated. Hereafter, at regular intervals in the Emerald, a Greek column will be published in which topics of timely interest and importance to the Greek system will be discussed and analyzed in their relation to the University as a whole. The purpose of this column is not to enumerate the achievements of the Greeks nor to redundantly praise them either individually or collectively. Rather, the reason for the existence of this column is to stimulate constructive thinking not only on the part of the fraternity man but the non-Greek as well, to insure the publication of both sides of various controversies, and in general to emphasize the fact that the fraternity system on this campus is able to step back and make a detailed, discerning analysis of itself, its problems and its future.

In the past several weeks, a great deal of criticism has been directed toward the fraternity system. The generating factors for a large part of this criticism are the activities carried on by some fraternities during their initiations. Therefore, as one of the most controversial fraternity issues, the value of some phases of fraternity initiations is a suitable topic for this edition of the Oregon Greek.

Initiation procedures for the most part are divided into two separate phases, the informal or pre-initiation and the formal. It is in the informal part that the criticized activities occur, and thus it is this phase whose value is under analysis.

There is no doubt that, as one portion of pre-initiation week activities, some fraternities engage in practices which are degrading both to the individual and to the fraternity as a whole; i.e., those practices referred to collectively as hazing. Such actions are indefensible, purposeless, and have not part in initiation proceedings. They are grounded and perpetuated in traditions which at one time were accepted by society, but they must now be rejected for they are functionless relics from an era which has now come to a close. In short, they constitute the undesirable aspect of fraternity initiations.

On the other hand, however,

there is also no doubt that many beneficial activities are carried on during pre-initiation week. The purposes of informal initiation are in brief the following: to acquaint the initiate with the history of his fraternity and to bring about a clearer understanding and deeper appreciation of its goals and ideals, i.e., to make the initiate's membership more meaningful and purposeful; to instill in the initiate respect for and responsibility toward his fraternity, the community, and the University; in general, to cause the initiate to analyze and re-evaluate himself and his personal attitudes in relation to his environment, thereby stimulating constructive ideas and high standards. These objectives are not merely ideals, but are incorporated into initiation activities in the form of group discussion, instruction, and work projects. Further, these objectives are not merely localized thoughts but can be found in the "Principles of Action" published by the National Inter-Fraternity Conference. To be sure, fraternity members do lose sight of these goals; it is then that the good to be derived from initiation is nullified. However, the proper application of the above purposes constitutes the beneficial aspect of fraternity initiations.

Some believe that informal initiation should be eliminated entirely, for they feel that this would be a perfect solution to the hazing problem. Is such action warranted? An equitable decision can be reached only after all aspects of the question are analyzed.

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Dead Issue

We run the following editorial from the Eugene Register-Guard because we believe it makes some very telling points. It appeared Monday, Jan. 21.

Ben Musa, president of the State Senate, asks a good question, one that has occurred to many as the Legislature begins looking at budgets. Why, he asks, in a state which has increased in population 5 per cent, must the higher education budget go up 20 per cent?

Like most good questions, this one has a good answer. The higher education establishment serves directly not the whole state but the people of the state who are, roughly, in the 17 to 22 year old age bracket. In the next biennium these will be the people who were born between about 1941 and 1948.

Next year's college freshman, at 17, was born in 1946, the year daddy got home from the war; or if daddy got home early, he was born in 1945 and will be 18 when school opens next fall. His little brother or sister was born in 1947 or 1958 and will be showing up on the campus before the 1963-1965 budget period has expired.

There were a lot of those "war babies." They are the ones for whom we built grade schools, junior highs and high schools in the '50s and early '60s. Now they are planning on college, and in increasing percentages as they seek to acquire the skills they will need for tomorrow.

In 1957, public higher education in Oregon

was serving 19,494 students. By 1962, the campuses were getting the baby crop of the early war years, and were educating 29,993. In the next biennium, the one for which this Legislature is budgeting, enrollments will go up to 34,671. It is likely that there will be more students attending summer school next summer than there were attending regular sessions on the campuses in 1954.

That accounts for part of the 20 per cent that Senator Musa wonders about. Also, the taxpayer and legislator are invited to recall the events of the past two years. The 1961 Legislature adopted a bare-bones higher education budget. Implicit in that budget was a certain level of service that the Legislature intended the institutions to maintain. It was estimated that enrollments in 1961 would be 24,196, or an increase of 11.5 per cent. The estimates were, as usual, conservative. When 26,835 students showed up, there just wasn't enough money to provide education at the level the Legislature had directed. The service level was reduced, as it had to be. Part of the request that Senator Musa finds so baffling is accounted for by the fact that this level of service, as fixed by the Legislature, ought to be restored.

Unfortunately, the Senate president is given to the inept analogy. He told a reporter, "I don't accuse them (the educational establishment) of padding the budget, but you can take a skinny man when he dies and fry him and still get fat out."

True, true. But the man is dead.

Letters to the Editor

Against Controversy

Emerald Editor:

Please do not invite Harry Bridges to the University of Oregon. He is controversial. Controversial people are not good. We should not have people like that near us. It would be much nicer if he did not come. Thank you.

Michael Scott,
Philosophy Junior
Burgess Hall.

About the 'O'

Emerald (sic) Editor:

The missing "O" on the Skinner Butte knoll at the foot of Willamette Street is being

missed even if the students haven't marched in mass to the Corvallis campus. The attributed cost of the "O" was stated as \$500; now if this isn't considered grand theft maybe someone should abscond (sic) with Emerald (sic) Hall or even the Student Union, then the faculty and campus superiors could utter again "when the students express a desire to see it returned then we'll attempt to recover it" or "there's a better one in Missoula." The law enforcement agency of this vicinity (sic) is pretty adept at recovering past-due parking meter fines.

Accepting the fact of nonre-

covery, a number of possible alternatives could be carried out for replacement of the "O." 1) Take contributions of jewelry and other gold items, melt them down, and cast a solid gold "O" of some value; 2) Make the "O" from paper mache' (sic) so that its loss could be tolerated financially, (sic) or 3) Place the new "O" behind charged barb wire and in a mine field which possesses a secret path . . . but its (sic) clear the "O" needs replacing otherwise the freshmen will have nothing to paint . . . and the farmers nothing to steal.

M. J. Lokken,
Senior in Psy-Mth.