

Clarifying the Hazing Issue

Last week the Emerald said in an editorial that perversion had occurred in connection with fraternity hazing. This information came from reliable sources in which we had much confidence. After investigation, however, we have found no proof to substantiate this accusation in any way.

We regret any damage that such a charge unjustly did to the University's fraternity system or its members.

We are sorry to find that the matter of perversion has obscured the main issue, the widespread hazing which many people have admitted occurred on this campus within the past few weeks. We hope that the investigation now being conducted by the Office of Student Affairs will help eliminate the whole range of objectionable practices which has traditionally been a part of hazing activities.

We also believe that the perversion matter should not influence the investigation of those houses charged with other hazing. For example, excessive hacking is not made any more acceptable by the absence of some other practice.

Although we are in complete agreement with the tone and severity of University

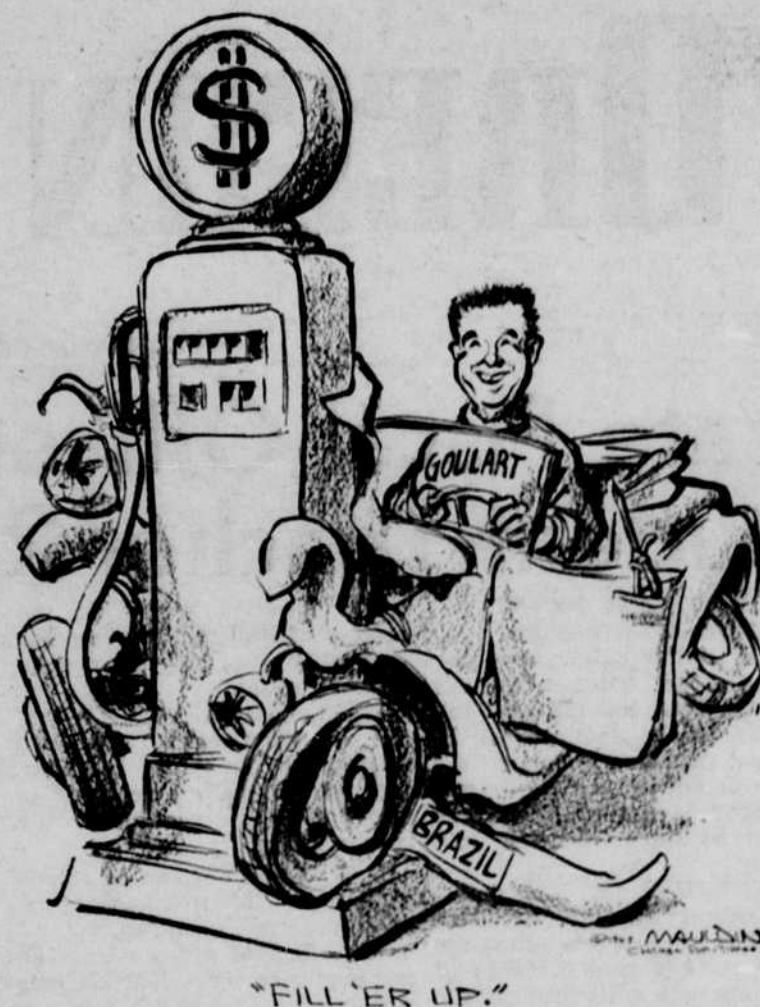
President Arthur S. Flemming's statement on hazing, we also realize that the statement has, because of this severity, made it more difficult for the Office of Student Affairs to gather information.

Nevertheless, we are confident that the investigation will gain sufficient information for President Flemming to make an equitable decision. The eventual result should be beneficial to the entire fraternity system.

Footnote

In last Friday's paper, the Emerald ran a series of questions on Arab-Israel. In all fairness to the two students who answered the questions, we should point out, even at this late date, that the last two questions and the answers submitted for them were left out, in both cases obscuring the meaning to some degree.

The omissions were made because of a misjudgment on the amount of space available, and we offer our sincere apologies to the authors, Tony David and Maher Quadrumi, for the damage done to their presentations.



Letters to the Editor

On Socratic Method

Emerald Editor:

I was astonished to learn in Professor Summers' letter on Monday that "the lecture went out with the invention of the printing press," and the Socratic method should replace the lecture system across the board, and at all levels.

Professor Summers stated that he has seen the method work well in classes of one hundred and fifty, adding the somewhat hasty conclusion that it will therefore work anywhere. What he neglected to point out was that his observation was made at the law school level, hardly a convincing basis upon which to build such an ambitious scheme.

In short, we have been given nothing but an opinion that the Socratic method is an excellent teaching device. And it is—in its place. But how many of us would survive in a physics or calculus class with a text book, a pile of mimeographed sheets and class notes which border on chaos?

The syllogism used by Professor Summers appears to be this: The goal of the liberal education is to develop critical judgment; the Socratic method is the best means of developing this faculty; therefore, the Socratic method should replace the lecture method. To put it mildly, this is less than compelling. In the first place, it ignores the very real difference between the goal of education and the means utilized in each class in contributing toward that goal. It would seem that the goal can best be reached by lecture in cases where the Socratic method isn't practicable. But Professor Summers assures us that there aren't any such situations. The only thing notable about this contention is a conspicuous lack of proof to support it.

The development of critical judgment comes to students through an assimilation of factual matter and mental exercise, combined with native ability. Some classes, because of size, quality of participants and subject matter, lend themselves to the Socratic method of enhancing this assimilation; others simply do not.

Moreover, if there is a good argument for indiscriminate adoption of the Socratic method, Professor Summers hasn't shared with us. The scanty substantiation of his view is exceeded only by his apparent unwillingness to recognize and dispose of the serious problems which would arise.

It is understandable that one would subscribe to such an excellent, though limited, teaching method as a matter of personal preference. But I submit that zealous infatuation with a

theory, however commendable, is no excuse for gross over-generalization and no substitute for close examination of the facts.

Robert Burns
First Year Law

Hoyt Proposal

Emerald Editor:

A thorough dissection of Tom Hoyt's letter of Jan. 25 would require more time and verbiage than I am willing to expend at this moment. One point, however, must be challenged: Hoyt's contention that "one of the major responsibilities of University political clubs is to uphold the reputation of the University of Oregon".

Two definitional problems arise. Who, besides Mr. Hoyt, views the "responsibility" of political clubs in this manner? Second, who defines "reputation"?

My own personal approach to the latter in this context would be to grant prestige—i.e. a good reputation—to that university which not only allows but openly encourages controversy. Freedom of thought, it seems to me, is the hallmark of those institutions universally acknowledged as prestigious. For the University of Oregon to become one of these should be the goal of any concerned with its "reputation". The appearance of Gus Hall on this campus moved the institution towards that goal. Mr. Hoyt's proposal would only negate that advance.

David Dobkin
Graduate in Political Science

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Another Campus Looks At Hazing

The following column is reprinted from the January 10 edition of the Daily Texan, student newspaper of the University of Texas. It helps show how hazing is being considered on a campus other than our own.

* * *

"A law is only as good as the people it is made for!" Two years ago in California a college freshman was murdered by his fraternity brothers-to-be. He was dead at 18. Strangled to death by a piece of liver forced down his throat during "hell week" activities.

Four years ago in Ohio another college freshman of 19 years was electrocuted during "fun and games week" when he was placed on a bare mattress springs connected to an electric current. The boys responsible were heartbroken. It was all in "fun."

This type of "fun" has been responsible for more lives taken than the two examples listed here. When will the headlines shout of another murder committed just in "fun?"

Not only at the University, but throughout the nation, many fraternities have already begun to prepare for "hell-week" activities and initiation ceremonies.

"Hell Week" is the period before the informal initiation night, usually five days. This event usually takes place the first week after spring registration.

The schedule of activities is designed for the pledges that have survived the various "rallies" and passing of the black-ball box during their regular pledgship training. The final period before initiation is like sadistic icing on the cake for the members.

During the period, now politely referred to by many as "help week," the pledges are subjected to midnight smokers, food eating contests, physical workouts, and mental hazing.

Midnight smokers consist of each pledge smoking a cigar in extremely closed quarters—a locked closet or under a wet blanket.

Food eating contests are designed to see which pledge can hold down the largest amount of some stomach-turning concoction, usually spiced with an ample amount of hot peppers. Physical workouts are com-

posed of pushups, holding heavy loads with the arms outstretched over long periods time, duck walking, and any other exercise a member might entertain in his mind.

Mental hazing is constant. At all times the pledge is reminded that he just might not be accepted for membership. He is quizzed on chapter history, Greek alphabet, and fraternity rules in general.

This all takes place during the week. And the pledge receives little or no sleep during the entire week.

Once the "hell week" is over, the pledge has informal initiation to look forward to. These initiations are always secret, but they climax and outdo the trials of "hell week." Fortunately they last only a few hours.

The big question remains: "Has there been something done to eliminate this hazing?"

The answer is "yes," some-

thing has been done. The student regulations handbook at the University in Appendix A, section 12 reads: "So-called 'hell week' practices have been abolished, and their revival is strictly forbidden."

Article 1152 of the Texas Penal Code calls for a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$250 and a jail sentence of not less than 10 days nor more than three months or both.

With such well-defined laws and regulations, one would be led to believe that the practice of hazing is on the way out.

But far to the contrary, the practice is very much alive. When will it stop? Only when the members of the fraternities begin to act like the men they say they are.

Only when the members become mature enough to see a mature outlook on life. Let's hope that day is not too far in the future.

—Wes Hocker

Letters to the Editor

Booing Is Good

Emerald Editor:

I am glad I attend the University of Oregon. Before, I thought that booing, whistling, and otherwise throwing tantrums while opposing players threw free throws was childish and poor sportsmanship. Now that I am a College Man, I have learned that these ideas are old fashioned. Booing is Good. This is how we show school spirit.

I am glad I attend the University of Oregon.

James W. McCoy
Math Graduate

Matter of Alliance

Emerald Editor:

In regard to Mr. Tom Hoyt's contention that Harry Bridges is closely allied with the Democratic party, I think he might do well to check the rolls of his own party, for it is a well-known fact that Bridges is a registered Republican.

William Wroth
Graduate in Political Science

Crusading Editor

Emerald Editor:

One cannot help but be intrigued with the investigation of fraternity hazing which has ten-

tatively concluded that the alleged evils are nothing more than the delusions of a crusading editor. Those who foresaw the outcome and from it concluded that the affair was purposeless were unduly pessimistic; on the contrary, it has provided valuable insight into the survival proclivities of the politician.

J. W. Barchfield
Economics Graduate

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.