

Back in '62...



(Oregonia Photo)



(Archives Photo)

Where were you in '62? Probably in first grade back home.

No matter where you were, the University was already here and has remained here in pretty much the same form. But the students were different and so were the times. Today, the Emerald looks at those students and their times in a re-creation of itself 15 years ago. The stories that appear in the following 10 pages are original stories of a few of the hot issues of 1962-63. Some are followed by updates (written in italics) to show how the times have (or haven't) changed.

But before leaping into history, let us give you a flavor of the campus mood back then with this short account written back then by Ted Mahar, then Emerald managing editor, now drama editor for the Oregonian.

When fall term 1962 began, Pres. John F. Kennedy had not yet completed his second year in office. The wall between East and West Berlin had been an unpleasant fact of political life for a little over a year.

Marilyn Monroe and William Faulkner had died during the summer. The Giants and the Dodgers were leading in the pennant race.

Once again the student body (9,600) was the largest in University history. Once again there were more students than had been anticipated. Once again it was necessary to draw on state emergency funds.

To accommodate the increasing number of students, buildings were being constructed or enlarged. There was, as usual, a new dormitory complex, Bean Hall.

The quad in front of the library was being excavated, while workmen laid the foundation for Prince Campbell Hall, which would be the new humanities building.

The Student Union added a whole new wing which contained a cafeteria, additional recreational facilities, and meeting rooms.

The Co-op book store, it was announced, would soon crowd the venerable College Side Inn out of the location it had occupied for a generation. There were objections to the removal of the Side, but they were both feeble and belated.

Everyone knew the removal would happen sooner or later anyway. While we may not have regarded Progress as our most important product we had at least learned to live with it.