

History

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"We don't mind so much studying in gloomy buildings erected back in the eighties. All we want is to maintain our faculty men," was the Emerald's editor's impassioned plea to the committee considering the issue to not make more cuts. The cuts eventually totaled \$508,918.

The Emerald even went so far as to publish a series of articles and editorials advocating the University create a cooperative in which students would help run and so be able to live for \$10 to \$14 a month. It also reported that a professor the staff interviewed disagreed with the proposal pointing out that room and board was available locally for as low as \$12 a month.

One of the articles cited a table compiled by the home economics department on how students could eat on \$1.54 a week if they bought food as a group. It also advocated for student safety. An Emerald editorial demanded some fire alarms on campus that didn't work correctly be fixed.

Even in the midst of the Depression, the University's enrollment continued to climb, reaching nearly 3,300 in 1940. It also saw the construction of several landmarks, including the art museum and the library. A fund-raising drive at the end of the decade went toward a student union building.

The '30s also was a decade of changes in campus life, including the official return of alcohol to campus on April 7, 1933.

Alcohol's return was accompanied by articles quoting University officials reminding students alcohol was still banned on campus

and in fraternities and sororities. But these admonishments didn't change student behavior. The Emerald reported in its society page on the occasional "beer busts" that various fraternities held before the legalization, and it continued to report on them afterward.

The University had a short-lived ban on student ownership of cars in 1932. The State Board of Higher Education banned student ownership of cars except as needed for job purposes or to travel in May. The board repealed the ban in October only requiring student cars to not interfere with education. Cars continued to be banned on campus itself.

Seven years later, feelings about cars had changed to the point the Emerald ran an article with a lead taunting Adolph Hitler that while he promised a car for every family in Germany, University students already had a car for every five students.

The University also got rid of an old tradition: the forced wearing of freshman caps. Freshmen had been required to wear green caps with long bills under threat of being hazed by upperclassmen until Jan. 20, 1933 when the tradition was abolished. The Emerald reported: "The abandoning of freshman caps ends a controversy that has alternately raged and subsided on this campus for a decade. Long ago lids for freshmen were abolished at the majority of the nation's leading schools, but for many years Oregon was divided on the subject. On numerous occasions the Emerald agitated on the matter and even yesterday



One of many OSU students gets carried off to the Millrace in the Civil War riot of 1937, dubbed by the Emerald the 'Siege of Seymour.'

there appeared an editorial urging those in charge of traditions to abandon frosh lids."

Another tradition that fell by the wayside was lighting bonfires on Skinner's Butte to welcome graduates to homecoming. It was discontinued because of environmental concerns about the crude oil used.

The rivalry between the University and Oregon State University was well established in the '30s. Perhaps it was further fueled by a

failed attempt early in the decade by members of the Oregon Legislature to consolidate the two schools into one in Corvallis.

The rivalry exploded into a riot on Oct. 23, 1937, after OSU's landslide 14-0 football victory at the University.

About 1,500 OSU students marched on the University, met by a crowd of students who came out of classes. About 200 of the "staters" ended up being thrown into the Millrace from the bridge

at Alder Street.

Police intervened when Oregon students found out that 50 OSU students were having lunch at a local eating establishment, Seymour's. The Emerald called the resulting barricaded standoff the "Siege of Seymour."

The trumpets of war began to sound during the 1930s. Students' glimpses of the tensions in the world were often in the form of a stand-alone Associated Press picture and caption in the Emerald.

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Oregon Emerald

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