

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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MONDAY, MAY 6, 1907

A REPRESENTATIVE BODY

At the University of Oregon men and women from all lines of student activities have become members of the Young Men's Christian Association or its auxiliary, the Young Women's Christian Association. Baseball, football, basketball, track, oratory, debate, glee club, all are represented in the Association.

The track team heads the list with a total of eleven members, all but one or two of whom are leading athletes on this year's team. The one or two exceptions have in past years been stars on the squad but are kept out this year on account of a press of other work.

Football is second with nine men, five of whom have been first team men during their course in college. The four remaining are second team men.

The Glee Club boasts a representation of eight members in the Y. M. C. A. These members have been of great benefit to the organization. At all special meetings music, both vocal and instrumental, has been furnished by them.

In debate the Association has two representatives, who are members of the teams of 1907, and two who have represented the University along these lines in former years.

Baseball has but one representative, a member of the second team. The manager, however, of this branch of athletics is a member of the Association.

Two class presidents belong to the Associations, one to the Y. M. and the other to the Y. W. C. A. One of our orators is a member of the organization. Members also are on the staffs of the Oregon Weekly, Oregon Monthly, and Junior Bulletin. In fact the Association is represented in every line of student activity. The moral tone of the University of Oregon is as high as at any institution in the country. When our leading athletes singers, debaters and orators annex themselves to the work, it has to be a success.

ELECTIONS

Whenever the season for electing a new set of student-body officers is on at Oregon or any other university, the student of sociology has only to stand aside and watch, in order to observe a practical demonstration of group action. At other seasons of the year, when the student-body is in conflict with an outside group, be the contest athletics, oratory, debate, or the referendum, the common interest unites each student to his fellow in a homogeneous desire for the success of the 'Varsity. With the second Wednesday in May, however, there comes a change and, the students dividing along the lines of least resistance, form naturally into various factions, according to their sympathies or antipathies.

In general the two strongest groups are conveniently divided into the "Anti-Frat." and the "Frat." factions, though in each the spirit of fair play does much to prevent the lines from

being drawn in bitterness. If the organization is close, caucuses, trades, combinations and most of the tricks of politicians come into use, embryo ward-healers and bosses carry on the war and the competition for the success of the ticket becomes strenuous.

These results of group action in the college world are inevitable and only those who deceive themselves can stand aside and speculate about a Utopian system of elections, free from group competition, for wherever a dormitory, literary society, Y. M. C. A. fraternity, or any organization, distinguished from the general student group, exists, the members of the group will look upon the merits of their own candidate with more favor than upon the equal merits of an opposition candidate. All factions combine on one man for office only when he is generally admitted to be strong enough to defeat all comers; the merits of the other candidates can be settled by the ballots of the general students alone.

As long as the contest between factions is carried on in good spirit, there can be no fair objection urged. Only when faction oversteps its privilege and attempts to gratify group prejudice instead of group reason or fair group rivalry, does it lay itself open to just criticism.

The privilege of any faction is to support its candidate in a single-hearted effort to elect him as a worthy man for office. It should never allow itself to attempt the doubtful satisfaction of voicing its antipathy toward a

(Continued on page 9)

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