

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, December 14, 1908

STUDENT POPULARITY

Nothing is better index of the true worth of a college man than his popularity among his fellows. To say that a man is popular is to pay him a higher compliment than to say that he is a good student or a good athlete. Most students realize the value of popularity, but the mistake that many make is in seeking it. Popularity that is sought does not and cannot last.

There is a type of freshman, and a somewhat rarer type of upperclassman, whose evident ambition is to become well-known by everyone. This type is that of the fellow who extends the "glad hand" to everybody, who takes remarkable care never to offend and tries always to please, who knows everyone by the Christian name on second meeting—the fellow, in short, who is making a positive and conscious effort to become popular. Generally he succeeds, temporarily. But forced popularity is a hot-house plant, and cannot grow hardy and outlive the changes of the seasons.

Constant effort to be agreeable will bring temporary recognition as a "good fellow," but it is cloying. The elements of true popularity in college become evident not through a man's own efforts to secure their recognition but in spite of them.

"Coy Hebe flies from those that woo
And shuns the hands would seize upon her.

Follow thy life and she will sue

To pour for thee the cup of honor."

True popularity in college, which is "honor," or "fame," in the college-

man's world, generally comes late. It never comes through seeking. The man who has backbone enough to disregard the sentiment of his fellows when that sentiment is wrong; the man who will stand alone, with five hundred and twenty-nine against him in a fight for his ideals, is the man worth while, to whom will come at last the popular regard. The man who dares, as Lowell puts it, to risk half his present repute for the right to think and the other half for the freedom to speak, will gain in future reputation.

The right sort of college man or woman never thinks of popularity as an end to be gained. If his handshake be warm or his tone hearty, it is from the sincerity of his nature, and not from a superficial desire for esteem. His every act is free from all imputation of truckling to popular favor. His voice is with a righteous cause against overwhelming odds. And to him comes unsought what many seek in vain.

Hear a parable, which is also a paraphrase. A freshman came to the University of Oregon, and he yearned earnestly after Fame. He was prominent whenever he had a chance. He made long speeches on the side of the majority in class meetings; he cultivated the acquaintance of prominent upperclassmen and called them "Bill" and "Dick;" he wore sixty-two inch peg top trousers and socks of the hues of a double rainbow; he cultivated a swagger that defies description; he joined everything that was to be joined; he spent fifty dollars a semester "for books" at Otto's. But Fame, more fickle than a co-ed, kept aloof, and would not smile upon him when he approached her.

As a sophomore, he went in for athletics, and never failed to attempt a star play, when the grandstands were looking. He cultivated the acquaintance not only of men but of girls, ran for office several times and was not unsuccessful politically. He patronized and advised the freshmen; was first in the plans for hazing but did not help to carry them out for fear of antagonizing the freshman vote. And all the time he kept his eyes upon the height where Fame sat, looking the other way. And not so much as a glance from her eye could he gain.

As a junior, he went in for student-body activities and society. He never refused to accept a proffered position and did work which would bring him prominently before the eyes of his fellows. Yet the goddess for whom he yearned would not smile upon him.

As a senior, weary of his pursuit of Fame, and persuaded that he could never win her approval, the student took his eyes from her and chanced to look above her. There he saw an ideal, which possessed his soul, the ideal of unselfish service. All year he toiled in humble places, and the good that he did among his fellows they never knew and he never stopped to note. His effort in all lines of work was sincere, and calm and reposeful—for the

fever of the hunt for Fame was gone. His love for votes was sunk in a love for men. He admired girls not because they could win him popularity, but for the finer qualities that always make the Oregon co-ed attractive. He actually made many students and some of the faculty angry at him by his obstinate stand for what he thought right. He did not pretend a liking for a single thing or person and he did not care if he did become unpopular.

It was on the day of graduation, when the senior, looking up with longing at his unattainable ideal and back with regret over three wasted years, noticed someone who approached him humbly and insistently in the attitude of a supplicant.

"Who are you?" he asked, kindly.

"I am Fame, whom you sought," she answered.

"Pardon me," he replied, indifferently, "I had forgotten you."

THAT THOUSAND DOLLARS

Just when will the University get the \$1000.00 tied up in the failure of the Title Guarantee and Trust Co. last year? is a question that has often been asked during the past months. A fairly definite answer is furnished by a letter to Registrar Tiffany from Homer D. Angell of the firm of Angell and Fisher of Portland. Mr. Angell, who is an alumnus of the University, explained that, according to the "Ladd Agreement," the receiver is to make payments every six months pro rata to the depositors, with yearly payment of interest at the rate of four per cent. Amounts of \$1000.00 or more that are not fully paid at the end of three years from the date of the appointment of the first receiver will be paid by William S. Ladd. It is probable that a payment of 10 per cent will be made in January. From this it is evident that it may be a little longer than two years before the Associated Students are fully reimbursed.

A WELL MANAGED DANCE

Sixty-nine dollars was the total cost of the sophomore hop at the Armory last Saturday night. Last year the same class gave a dance at a cost of two hundred dollars. The party last Saturday evening was the more enjoyable of the two. Credit is due the president of the sophomore class for his zeal in giving personal attention to all details and keeping down expenses.

PAPER DURING VACATION

The Oregon Weekly will appear as usual next Monday, although the vacation season will then have begun. It is probable that there will also be a special issue on December 28. These two issues will be sent to student subscribers at their vacation addresses if proper notice is given to the manager. A list is posted in Villard Hall for the convenience of those who cannot readily see the manager.

Die Germania meets Tuesday night.