

Oregon State Freshman Class Said To Be Well Prepared

Corvallis—This year's freshman class at Oregon State college gives every indication of being the "best prepared" in OSC history, President A. L. Strand says, and he gives some credit to Sputnik but most to Oregon high schools "that have made giant gains in the past three years."

Dr. Strand terms the upgrading in high school training "the most important thing that has happened in education in my 18 years as president of Oregon State."

Sputnik was fired just three years ago, the OSC leader noted, and helped set off a program of educational emphasis and improvement throughout the country. High schools in Oregon have responded with particular speed and success and deserve special commendation for their work, President Strand emphasized.

As evidence of improved preparation, Dr. Strand points to the record scores made by freshmen on the mathematics placement examination; to in-

creases in the number of students in the science honors program; to decreases in the number in remedial courses; and to school of engineering figures that show a very high capability for an entering group.

The new freshmen also appear to be "more serious" and "intent on their studies," he added.

The average freshman at OSC this fall had a high school grade average of 2.86, or just under a B which would be 3 points, Registrar D. T. Ordemen reports.

Performance of new freshmen in the mathematics placement examinations this fall was "significantly better than ever before." Upper scores on

the tests were from 8 to 10 points higher than last year and more than twice as many students qualified for advanced placement in calculus and analytic geometry. Placement tests are given to help determine for which classes or sections of classes students are best prepared.

The science honors program, designed to give especially able students an opportunity to go "faster and farther" in college, also had a big increase in the number of new freshmen who qualified and were picked to participate. There were 52 freshmen in the program last fall when it was started; this year there are 86.

Not Much Question
George Gleason, dean of engineering, says there isn't much question that the "quality" of new freshmen is going up. The drop-out of students from engineering courses is far smaller than usual, he noted, indicating better preparation.

been critical at times of the high school preparation for engineering, but he says freshmen are now coming "better equipped" to handle the intensive engineering program. New freshmen this fall did about 20 per cent better on the English placement exam than the freshmen of five years ago, according to Dr. Herbert Nelson, head of the English department. He noted special improvement in ability of students to express themselves in writing.



STRANGE PETS—Jolo, a Brazilian capuchin monkey, holds on to his pet, Elmer, a Chihuahua puppy, after the monkey adopted the dog as a pet. Both animals are five weeks old and are pets of Mrs. Tressie Pederson, Pacifica, Calif., and have become inseparable friends. (UPI Telephoto)

Warm Indian Summer Said Not Unusual by State Meteorologist

Corvallis — The warm, dry Indian Summer days of mid-October may have seemed "extra special" this year, but the truth is that they come along about 80 per cent of the time between Oct. 11 and 20 in the mid-Willamette valley, according to research meteorologist William P. Lowry.

Lowry is in charge of meteorology studies for the Oregon Forest Research center in Corvallis and teaches part-time at Oregon State college. His special field of interest is "unseasonable" weather, and it isn't half as unseasonable as memories of folks would have you believe from year to year, he emphasizes. The "seasonal" shifts have some interesting patterns, however.

Middle 10 Days
The middle 10 days in October, for example, have a better chance of being dry than either the first or last 10 days of the month, he has noted, in comparisons for Salem, Medford, Redmond, Pendleton, Portland, Tillamook, North Bend and Ukiah.

In Salem, chances of rain between Oct. 11 to 20 are 44 out of 100, he figures. During Oct. 1 to 10 and 21 to 31, the chances are 54 out of 100. Chances of day temperatures above 60, on the other hand, are 82 per cent for the middle 10 days; 80 for the first 10 days; but only 49 for Oct. 21 to 31.

Chances for cold weather increase markedly after Oct. 21 in most Willamette valley and Central Oregon areas. The break between the late summer days and the cold ones that signal "winter's coming" is about Nov. 1 in northeastern Oregon areas.

Odds for days above 60 degrees are about 70 out of 100 in mid-October in Pendleton, but only 15 in 100 from Nov. 1 to 10.

High Pressure Cell
The weather shifts associated with the end of Indian Summer come each year as the high pressure cell in the North Pacific Ocean retreats to the southwest, allowing migrating storms to come farther south than they have earlier in the year.

Important weather changes are more abrupt, of course, as you move away from the ocean. Lowry pointed out. Weather changes across Oregon are considerably less abrupt than in most other sections of the country, he added.

Along the Coast, weather shifts are gradual because the ocean acts as a giant thermostat, Lowry says.

Poor References
Memories are poor references for weather comparisons, Lowry pointed out. Exceptionally bad years — especially if they had economic importance — stand out in people's minds and are used as a yardstick for evaluating current weather.

And while he doesn't want to belittle this year's fine mid-October weather, it was not "unusual," Lowry concludes.

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