

Education Board Continues Policy Of Admissions

Portland - (UPI) - The State Board of Higher Education has agreed to continue its selective admissions policy for another year.

The policy, adopted in 1957, requires Oregon high school graduates to have at least a "C" average, or must either score high enough on a college aptitude test or have high enough grades in a special summer school program to enter state schools of higher education.

A staff report said percentages of applicants denied admission under the policy were 4.3 per cent for 1958-59, 7.2 per cent for 1959-60 and 4.5 per cent for 1960-61. It said this was lower than expected.

To Study Housing

The building committee agreed to study possibility of married student housing for the medical and Dental schools here.

Dean D. W. E. Baird of the Medical school said percentage of medical students who are married exceeds that for other students in the state system. He said the school has land which might be suitable to develop housing facilities.

Dr. John R. Richards, chancellor, said the state had cut off the board's land purchase budget request \$200,000 below normal. He said this would have considerable effect on campus expansion policy.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Public Enemy No. 1 Of The Plant World

There are not many left; in fact only one specimen could be found in spite of extensive inquiries and a very diligent search.

As fast as one is found it is usually destroyed. Today there could scarcely be a half a dozen still alive, even in several thousand acres of the Florida Everglades.

To arrive at the place where our sought-after specimen was growing we had to wade through acres and acres of sawgrass. In many places the standing water was nearly a foot deep. At last we arrived at the "hummock" (higher land) where we knew the "criminal" was in residence. Deadly Plant

Once we had it located, we approached it with feeling of awe. Here was a tree, innocent enough in appearance, but one that is recognized by plant experts and botanists as the deadliest plant in the world.

It was a small tree, about 20 feet high, with a spreading, yet compact head. The leaves were dark green above and much lighter in color on their undersides. There were a few round, yellow-green fruits hanging from some of the branches. The fruit resembled crab-apples, but we knew they were deadly poisonous.

This tree, the "Manchineel," is commonly called the "tree of death." A tree whose fruit, sap, bark, roots, flowers and particularly leaves are both internally and externally poisonous, even to the touch.

This tree is so anti-social that the merest contact with the milky sap will cause a severe skin rash that burns like liquid fire; the fruit so dangerous that a single bite would be fatal. The Manchineel tree is really a native tree in south Florida, where once it flourished and in its gruesome way served a purpose. Poison for Arrows

The Calusa Indians, a warlike race of red-men who inhabited the Floridas before and during the time of the very first Spanish explorers, used the milky sap of this tree to poison their arrows.

Fortunate indeed, for people today who may walk or explore parts of this last great tropical wilderness, that few of these criminal trees are still alive. Within a short time now the last will be cut down and destroyed, and the "number one criminal of the plant world" will be only a brief notation in a natural history book. The Manchineel, "the tree of death," has already outlived its place in the sun. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Portland - (UPI) - Lester E. Thayer, Portland, has been named the new executive secretary of the Oregon Bankers association, effective Jan. 1.

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