

Honors College Watched by Educators Throughout Country

(Editor's note: The following article about the University of Oregon's Honors College was written by Don Robinson, reporter for the Eugene Register - Guard and former Mail Tribune reporter.)

By DON ROBINSON
It's a little hard to find, a little hard to describe.

But it's made Time magazine and the New York papers, a survey shows students inside like it and students outside accept it, and the president says it is working well enough and growing fast enough to start thinking of giving it a sister.

That being true, success would seem to be the word for the University of Oregon's three-year-old experiment in Jeffersonian education — the Honors College.

Physically, all there is of the Honors College is an Honors College Center. Tucked into the basement of old Friendly Hall, the center is one central room with a series of auxiliary cubicles, one of which houses Honors College Director Lucian Marquis.

Wander Into Center
Students wander down the flight of steps into the center all hours of the day and much of the night for study and conversation. No coffee or refreshments. The Danish furniture is too valuable.

What kind of students are they?
Talks with Marquis and some of the students themselves produce an impression that an Honors College student is bright, but not JUST bright.

He is likely also to be broadly inquisitive, curious about fields outside his specialty.

Significant Difference
This may well be the significant difference between those able students who choose the Honors College and those who

don't. There are a good number just as talented who prefer the regular university program.

The Honors College is not the ideal vehicle for the jet-class student streaking as quickly and directly as possible to his bachelor's degree. It is more for the explorer who wants to see some academic countryside on his way.

Neither, in appearance, are these Honors College students of the protest - Beatnik - Bohemian ilk. If comparisons are required, they look more like Stanford than they do Reed College.

The heart of the Honors College program is a series of six core courses, ordinarily completed in freshman and sophomore years.

These are all given in honors classes. That is, classes containing exclusively Honors College students, with material and study plan geared to them. The core courses are history, literature, social science (introduction to the social sciences, or principles of economics), science (biology, chemistry, or physical science survey), philosophy, and mathematics (a special introductory math course, or calculus).

Core Requirements
The core requirements are satisfied when the student passes a comprehensive examination in each, covering the whole year's work.

It is a measure of the college's flexibility (one hears a lot about "escaping from structural rigidity") that students are permitted to take these exams without enrolling in the courses.

It is thus possible for a student to plow through a heavy reading list in the summer and pass the comprehensive in a particular course that fall. So far 25 students have done it.

In his junior and senior years

the Honors College student will fulfill requirements established for his major.

All Honors College students except those in physics, business administration and mathematics will write a senior honors essay — a research paper approaching thesis caliber.

Part of Program
Another part of the program is the colloquium. Juniors and seniors participate in two each year. There is one colloquium each term, each with a broad theme. This year's themes were Romanticism, The Self, and the Exploration of Outer Space.

There are seminar-type classes in which the student signs up with an instructor who is not in the student's major. From time to time all students in the colloquium seminars will gather to hear outstanding visiting speakers. These have included John Ciardi, Saturday Review poetry editor, and Sen. Wayne Morse.

The colloquia are ungraded, except for pass or fail designations. All told Honors College students will take 60 to 70 per cent of their class work in honors classes.

The advantages, as described by Marquis and by the students, appear to be these:
—Classes are smaller. The

largest this year has about 25 students.

This means as Marquis put it, "More conversation with the teacher and with other students. Are More Interested"

And as some of the students put it, "The instructors are more interested in you because they can get to know you," or, "the instructors themselves read and grade the paper, not some graduate student."

—There is more opportunity for self-generated, independent research and study. This means more reading, enriching a student's experience in a given subject, and more writing, hope-

ly motivated by the student's own interest.

—The other caliber of fellow students, with whom one has a great opportunity to exchange ideas and arguments, is high.

—And there is flexibility in time schedule and even in meeting place. This year some classes are meeting in rooms above the Side restaurant and in dormitory dining halls.

How about the grading system?
The best description seems to be that grades are used but are not allowed to become dictators. Admission to the Honors College is based only partly on high school grades, the rest on an applicant's written statement of reasons for seeking entrance, results of College Board Examinations, and personal recommendations.

There is no absolute, pegged grade-point average determining whether a student stays in the college. Students are disqualified when they are not "making satisfactory progress." Some of

this is grades, but probably more of it is whether the student is taking, and passing, the comprehensive exams in core subjects.

This does not mean Honors College students are slouches in their grade reports. This year's graduating class of 22 has an average GPA of 3.28.

The college apparently draws students widely distributed in academic specialty. From liberal arts this year the greatest number are majoring in anthropology (44), math (42), and English (23). From the professional schools the greatest number are in journalism (11), education (9), and architecture (7).

From other curricula the greatest number are in pre-medicine (33), and pre-law (14). Total enrollment is about 370.

Participate In Activities
Honors College students appear to participate in their share of extra-curricular activities.

"Bright kids do a lot of things," Marquis commented simply. He noted that in the last student body election a sizable number of candidates were from the Honors College.

Someone is bound to ask: Is the Honors College undemocratic?
The answer of Honors College advocates is that it is democratic in the Jeffersonian sense. It enables the total university to provide opportunity for all, but also permits academic challenge to be fitted to the individual student's potential so that each may realize it to the fullest.

"There is nothing undemocratic about giving people of ability the opportunity of working together," Marquis remarked.

Not Intellectual Elite
One of the students probably had a good point when he said the Honors College is not cre-

ating the kind of intellectual elite that might be resented, simply because — as was noted before — there are a lot of equally bright students who are not in the Honors College.

Last November UO President Arthur Flemming hinted something just in the talking stage now — a second honors college. He said 550 is considered the optimum enrollment of the existing Honors College, and that will be reached in another couple of years.

"As time goes we may very well wind up with a number of honors colleges," Flemming said in that news conference.

In the meantime, the first and to this date only Honors College, a unique experiment, is being watched by educators around the country. They want to see whether it really is possible to provide within and as a part of a large state university something resembling a

high quality, small liberal arts college.

They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hadlo



Independence Fire Destroys Laundry

Independence, Ore. —(UPI)—Fire destroyed an Independence laundry Saturday and owner Ray Dunkel estimated the loss of the building and equipment at \$56,000.

The blaze, which broke out shortly after 5 a.m., burned through the frame building in about 30 minutes, according to Independence firemen. The alarm was turned in by city patrolman Dave Jester.

The fire also burned telephone lines and about 60 telephones in the area, including the police department phone.


Homes next to the laundry, located in the downtown business district, were saved.



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PEACHES Sierra Mission Freestone Slices No. 2½ Tin	4 FOR 89¢	FRUIT COCKTAIL Valley Bloom No. 303 Tin	5 FOR 99¢	DOG FOOD Delight Tall Tins	16 FOR 99¢	EGGS AA LARGE Strictly Fresh Dozen	2 FOR 89¢	Flour Hacienda Bleached All Purpose 10 lb. bag	79¢	DETERGENT New Energy Blue or White Giant Size	49¢	BABY FOOD Gerber's New 16-oz. High Protein Cereal Package 39¢	CHICKEN STICKS 2½-oz. Jar	2 for 49¢
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