

THE OCTOPUS

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Number 1.

FEW ONLY, OVER-ORGANIZED; PANACEA IS TO "DIVIDE UP"

Two-Thirds of Student Body Is Connected With Very Few Activities; Their Education Incomplete

Over-organization on the campus is not a matter of too many student organizations existing, but it is the problem that is continually facing the over-organized student who must do his studying before breakfast and after bedtime in order to keep up with his social obligations. Practically every student organization connected with the University has grown out of a need for a society to carry out some particular function. When a society's usefulness is completed the society usually dies a natural death.

Out of the 80 students that graduated in 1911, 20 were connected with as many activities as were the 60 other graduates during their four years in college. The average number of activities indulged in by the 20 was eight while the average for the other 60 students was a little more than two. Similar statistics for the class of 1915 show a similar tendency. Out of 88 graduates, 18 averaged 10 activities, while 70 averaged a little less than three. The maximum number for any one of the 70 was five, and the minimum number of activities for any one of the 18 was six and the maximum 18.

Why is it that two-thirds or three-fourths of the student body is connected with so few activities and organizations while a few others are apparently over-burdened with a large number of offices and society memberships? A student's education is hardly complete who has spent four years on the campus and has done practically nothing for himself and his fellow students through some sort of activity. The full development of student life come only when one has learned to work in harmony with others through organization.

Then there are a few students who spend entirely too much time working in subsidiary organizations and who do not get the greatest good out of their studies. This condition brings us face

to face with the problem of equalizing the number of activities among the students and not trying to single out a few organizations termed "useless" and legislating them out of existence.

CLASS OF '16 IS DEMOCRATIC

Senior Leap-year Lottery Brings Out Sportsmanlike Spirit of Girls

Some of the old stagers who know said that the senior leap-year lottery dance of the seventeenth was the best of the season. At least there wasn't a dull minute, and some said they had gotten better acquainted with the rest of the class in one night than they had before in three years.

And the reason for a part of it was that most of the senior girls have the right kind of democracy. For instance, one girl came that night who had never been at a dance before. She paid her "man" floral tribute, called for him at his fraternity house in a cab, and saw to it that his program was filled—extras too. And she said she had the time of her life.

Of course there were a few girls who didn't have even the courtesy to call up their fate-selected partners and plead out-of-town symptoms, or fatal illness. They didn't plead anything. They didn't call at all. If they were the mousey sort who had drawn great social lions and were overcome, their modesty is commendable, but not their judgment. If, on the contrary, they were socially precious, and hated to go dragging in doubtful prizes, their democracy is moth-eaten. But these unfortunates were few. They were hardly missed.

But there must still be a little of the old Oregon spirit prowling around the campus when a senior class can put on a leap-year lottery dance as heterogeneous and successful as that of the seventeenth.

Now if some one can just think of some new kind of a lottery that the Freshman and Sophomore girls can have without running cross-grain to the faculty social committee.

We wonder if the air in the library will ever get so bad that the students will take to wearing gas masks, European plan.

"DON'T LET YOUR STUDIES INTERFERE WITH EDUCATION"

Student Should Have Interest in Knowledge for Its Own Sake, not Merely for Grades

A certain student in the University of Oregon handed in to the faculty a petition to take eighteen hours. Under the rules he had to give some reason; so in the space after the "because" and the colon-dash, he wrote:

"I want an education."

The registrar said that that reason would never go. "That's why all the students come here." Whereupon the petitioner responded, "You don't know the students like I do."

Now this goes to prove something or other, namely that there is a great difference between attending the University and getting an education.

Also, fulfilling all the assignments of one's instructors and pulling high grades in all the quizzes is not necessarily getting an education.

Before a man is well along the winding, hazardous road to knowledge he must take deep breaths along the way of the air that inspires—the thoughts that the great have thought; and this is possible by reading the best books.

It might be said that a man does not promise to become beautifully scholarly until he has experienced the intellectual thrill, which lifts one on wings of thought high, high into the air.

Did you ever read a great page of prose or a sublime line of poetry and then feel a strange surge of exalted feeling run through your body, that cleanses you for the moment of all sordid littleness? Have you ever read and then thought, "Oh, God! could such thought and expression be mine, I should feel that I was a man!"

What all this means is that a student in quest of a real education should have a serious, ardent, intellectual interest in knowledge for its own sake, not merely a forced compliance with an appointed classroom task.

THE OCTOPUS

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Advertising, subscription and other rates may be had at the desk. Sample copies are neither sold nor delivered.

EUGENE, OREGON. SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1916.

Foreword and Warning.

The OCTOPUS bows to you, lucky reader! Revel in this initial bow, for the OCTOPUS will bow no more, to nobody! And revel in your good fortune for—Fortune may not smile on you another issue.

A college newspaper, as an organ of the student body, should not conserve only the interests of a few; its editorial page should not reflect the opinions of one man; it should not be used as the spoils of a political triumph; it should not suppress articles signed by members of its constituency in preference to others on the same subject; it should confine its editorials to the editorial page, proper. In short, it should not be treated as personal property, but as student body property.

The OCTOPUS is not a student body activity; it is not devoted to inculcating the doctrines of anyone into someone to the exclusion of someone else, but it SHALL, absolutely SHALL, practically—not theoretically—pursue militantly a policy of proper publicity in regard to all problems that confront the student body—all of this based on the truism that a democracy can be effective and efficient only so long as it maintains a free and militant press.

The OCTOPUS will be published periodically; it seeks no patronage; it solicits no advertising; it will work for the ultimate good of the University.

This is a sample copy. Every copy will be a sample copy.

"Once to Every Man."

Sooner or later there comes a time in the life of every man when he must rely on his own principles. This time came to a few students during the recent "sophomore representative" question and resulted in what appeared to be a decided split in party politics and the rise of personal and factional politics in the University student body. It is the inalienable right of every man to think and to vote as he sees fit and it is also his right to express his views on political questions.

The "sophomore representative" question was important more as a question of policy than as a matter of politics. Why should a breach in the student council bring a split in the Emerald staff? There are other matters that will come up soon that will call for a solidity of opinion in the ranks of the student council as well as complete loyalty to the cause of the student body.

In a case of this kind every man is entitled to a

Strong Stuff.

By Don Marquis in New York Sun.

The editors sit in a circle,
Planning their magazine;
Burly and beetle-browed,
With dirks at their brawny thighs.
And each as he dips a skull
Deep in a tub of blood
And drinks with a toss of his battered head,
Bellows the toast: "Strong stuff!"

Hirelings that cower and cringe
Bear to them platters
Heaped high with bones of bulls,
Shoulder of mammoth and rib of the Asian elephant,
And they growl and crack the bones with their teeth;
And they roar till the rafters ring,
Bellowing all together: "Strong stuff!"

A poet who sits in an ante-room
With the song of a violet hugged to his heart
Hears, and the sweat of dread
Bursts through his pallid skin.
And the ink on his poem starts
And runs in a purple tear.
And he hears as he hits the stairway,
Bound for the friendly street,
The voices of editors, howling "Strong stuff!"

The editors sit in a circle
Hairy of throat and chest,
With cauliflower ears and red-rimmed eyes,
And they gnash their teeth till the sparks
Fly out of their mouths and noses.
And one of the youngest rises
And leaps in the air
And bites himself on his own iron brow—
Jumps up and sinks his teeth
Deep in his sinister forehead.
And the others, applauding,
Pound on the tables with bones of bulls
And shout in their gusty mirth,
"STRONG STUFF!"

respect for his opinions by those who hold other views, and he in turn should consider the opinions of others. Now that the election is a matter of history, the sophomore has been shown his place, so let us all forget our little differences and all pull together for a "Greater Oregon."

Capitalize the Interest!

The recent split in student body circles over sophomore representation, a relatively insignificant question in itself, stirred up more real pep and spirit on the campus than any student legislation in the history of the institution.

What are we going to do with this pep? Let it dwindle and die? Are we going to shrink back to the stage where an amendment as important as the recent cooperative store proposition can call out a mere 138 votes pro and con, together? Rather let's get a strong hold on this infant offspring of campus strife—of Emerald campaign versus nocturnal poster—nourish it, and make it grow. Let's capitalize the interest which has accrued. Three hundred fourteen votes were cast upon this question, which is approximately two and one-half times as many as have been mustered out for an amendment election heretofore; and all through a few live wires forcing their views and convictions upon a hitherto dormant student body. Personal animosities should be subordinated to the capitalization of what is worth while in its bearing upon a more efficient student body.

For The Woman's Building

The Women's League of the University
of Oregon Presents The
University Players

THE FORTUNE HUNTER

Winchell Smith's Famous Comedy

Friday-Saturday, March 31st.
and April 1st.

EUGENE THEATRE

Prices: 25, 50, 75 Cents. None Higher.

Seat Sale Starts Thurs., March 30, 9:00 A. M.

GOING HOME VACATION? BOOST

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON ===== AND ===== HIGHER EDUCATION

1,000 STUDENTS FOR OLD OREGON
NEXT YEAR—REMEMBER!

Greatest of April Frolics
HAYWARD HALL
Evening of Friday, March 31

Remember: A Costume and Fifteen Cents Admits
You. Otherwise Two Bits.