

## **Chemawa American Editorial and Opinion Page So What Took Us So Long?**

When's the Chemawa American going to come out? Is the Chemawa American going to come out? What happened to the paper? We did have a paper once, didn't we? How come we don't have one any more?

A lot of students and alums have been asking this question, and they deserve an answer. They also deserve a paper, so here we are again. We may look a little strange and a little ragged, but we are out, and we hope to keep coming out on schedule from now on.

What we suffered was a near-fatal case of too much sophisticated equipment. The fancy machine that sets our copy in nice, even, justified columns broke. Then it broke again. And again. And again. So we are doing the paper the old-fashioned way. It may not look quite as pretty, but it gets done, and that's what counts most.

There should be a point or a moral behind every editorial, so here is ours. The more complicated and fancy you become, the more you multiply the chances for something to go wrong. We apologize to our readers for taking so long to learn this lesson.

## ***The Small Miracle That Happens Here***

A minor miracle happened here during the first semester. Nobody fired off a cannon or ran up a flag to celebrate it, but it still happened. What was this miracle? Some students finally learned how to read.

Chemawa is not the only school to be troubled with low reading scores. Schools all over the country have this problem. It might be worse here because many of Chemawa's students have histories of poor treatment in public schools. But Chemawa is doing something about it.

Take a look at the first semester. In September 83% of the freshman class read below an eighth-grade level, and one per-cent could read at a ninth-grade level or above. This clearly shows that most of our students enter high school without proper reading preparation.

But thanks to the reading lab, one freshman gained a full five years in reading ability in one semester! Two others gained more than four years. Ten gained more than three years. Twenty-one gained more than two years, and thirty-two gained more than one year. The average gain for a semester is four months, but for Chemawa's freshmen it was nine months--a full school year. And this average includes several students who were enrolled for only nine of the eighteen weeks.

It's a nice gain and we are glad to boast about it. But the real gainers are those students who can now read and work properly at the high school level. Congratulations to them and to Mrs. Brixius, Mrs. Esler and Mr. John, the three fine reading teachers who made these gains possible.

## **Money Troubles Hit Yearbook**

This year the yearbook will cost more than ever before. Next year the cost may go even higher. Many students wonder why the charge of eight dollars per book. Could it be done any cheaper?

The answer is no. Even at eight dollars the Student Council is going to lose money on every book they sell. With the number of books Chemawa has ordered, the publication cost is just over eight dollars a copy.

There is one way to keep the price down. If more students (or alums) would order books, then the cost per book would go down, and the Council could pass the savings along to the students. But unless more students order books, the price will continue to rise.

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