

Chemawa American Editorial and Opinion Page

First, Here's a Little Good News...

It used to be that a letter sent home on a student had only one possible meaning. The student was in trouble. He or she had done something bad. Well, we do have students who foul up, sometimes badly. But we also have a lot of students who contribute a great deal of good to the school, and they are finally getting some recognition too.

Staff and teachers have come up with what they call a "Special Communique". It's a little certificate praising students for a job well done in class, dorms or activities. It is filled out and sent home so that teachers or staff can let parents or guardians know their son or daughter is doing well and is appreciated.

We think it is a good idea, and we wish it had been thought of earlier. There is nothing like a few words of praise to make someone, anyone, feel good.

...And Some That's Not So Good ...

Chemawa's wrestlers took to the mat 139 times against other teams this year. They won more than they lost (75-62), but the team never won a match. The reason is simple. Because of forfeits, they had to start most matches with the score 24-0 against them!

Where were those four extra men? And where were the jayvees? Only one, Todd DeGarmo, stuck it out for the entire season. They were in the student body--somewhere. They wanted the glory, the prestige and the feelings of accomplishment that go with competition. But they didn't want the hard work and sacrifices that they would have to make to get them.

Athletics do teach a valuable lesson. You can succeed, but only if you are willing to work hard for it. Nobody will hand you a win as a gift. You have to struggle for it and take it. This happens not only in sports, but in the big cruel world outside as well.

What are the things you want for your life, and how hard are you willing to work for them? The athlete knows at least part of the answer. He has the experience of setting a goal and then struggling to reach it.

No matter what the conference standings say, Chemawa's teams were not made up of losers. The losers were the ones who were afraid to try or who could not face the idea of struggle and sacrifice. They are their own victims.

And a Footnote

Sim Adolph's wrestling season did not end at the State Meet. He wrestled again in the Oregon Free style Championships at O.C.E. There he finished 11th out of 62 in his weight division. He wrestled six times in two days against A, AA and AAA competition, winning four of the matches. That makes his season total 21-6. Good going, Slim!

Rev. Moffett Talks to Students

"You are on the threshold of a new age," Rev. Walter Moffett told Chemawa's students at an assembly March 19. Rev. Moffett is President of the Northwest Affiliated Tribes of Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana.

Rev. Moffett talked about the achievements and problems facing Northwest Indians. "Ours is a changing role," he said. "We are caught up in the 20th century pace."

He said that Northwest Indians lag behind in many social and economic aspects of life. "But we have made advances and we have shown the strength to grow more."

Indian college enrollment has more than doubled since 1960, he said, adding that at one time he was the only member of his tribe enrolled in college. "Our history in the last few centuries has been written in our ability to endure and survive."

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