

Oregon Daily Emerald

Member of Pacific Intercollegiate Press Association

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Lyric Rainbow Commended

"WHETHER or not God uses soap is really not of vital import to the University of Oregon, but that the University is being made the object of ridicule throughout the state should be. If anyone doubts that this is fast becoming prevalent, let him visit the office of one of the leading Willamette valley newspapers on the day the Emerald containing the Lyric Rainbow column appears."

The above is quoted from a communication to the Editor in the recent controversy over the merits of the Lyric Rainbow, the weekly poetry column of The Emerald edited by Walter Evans Kidd. We do not know what leading newspaper offices the writer of the above called upon recently, but one Oregon newspaper has been kind enough to find the "pot of gold" at the foot of this particular Rainbow, and to say so in no uncertain terms. That paper is The Albany Democrat-Herald, which favorably recognized the poets and the editorial policy of printing their work, in an editorial entitled, "The Lyric Rainbow in the Storm," Saturday evening, April 25. It is significant that such praise comes from the pen of Charles Alexander, nationally known as a short-story writer, and whose personal encouragement of writers and selection of material for the Saturday literary section have brought his paper into wide notice. The University was privileged to entertain Mr. Alexander as a guest at the convention of Oregon writers held on the campus last year.

"Though the number of people writing verse today is only less deplorable than the number and kind of verses turned out, all this activity, as we have sometimes mentioned heretofore, is not bereft either of its significance or of its immediate benefits to the poets themselves," he writes. "One mitigating circumstance that street-corner statisticians in these times overlook, in speaking of poetry, crime, moral laxity and other properly modern suppurations, is that in the United States at this moment there are a hundred ten—or twelve or thirteen—million people; and a further circumstance, in regard to the professional literature of the university type, is the wide acquaintance with literature and art made possible to nearly all young people. In grandfather's time perhaps one out of ten was blessed with the opportunity to make this acquaintance. A rising ratio of dubiously authentic talent, must, reasonably, be expected to accompany this process of general education. The young effervescings, then, of so many who never will improve their talent into the professional class, need cause little surprise and no unhealthy alarm. Out of this mass of maiden efforts will graduate the giants of the pen who will tower in the skies tomorrow."

"The Oregon Emerald, the campus daily newspaper at the University of Oregon, has just issued its most entertaining number since the old Sunday Emerald passed away with the defection of Ernest Haycox, now a successful fiction writer, then a student. Much uproar has been stirred on the campus, it appears, and the Emerald's editor, Donald L. Woodward, has given three columns of space to letter-writers practically all pro and occasionally con on the subject of 'Lyric Rainbow,' a column of poetry printed weekly in the Emerald and edited by one Walter Evans Kidd."

Mr. Kidd is apparently not as unknown to the state at large as certain of the letter-writers on the "con" side of the question would like to have us think:

"As for Mr. Kidd, he was, it can be claimed, discovered by this paper; he first won into the light of print in these columns (The Democrat-Herald's), and during his Portland high school years was a steady contributor. He still contributes. Yet now, because of producing the best under-graduate poem last year in America, because of his appearance in quite the most select

poetry publications, Mr. Kidd requires no defenders. The peculiar armor of publication turns the clouds of really severe arrows always unloosed in his direction when anything of Mr. Kidd's is printed. It is well enough, as a critical pose, to assert why this poem by Mr. Kidd is taffy, that poem horsecollar, and a third sheer idiocy; a silence as demure as stultifying falls on the critics when someone timidly mentions his prizes won, his honors taken with these same poems, his selection, among thousands of aspirants from the country's proudest universities, as recipient of various awards. So that, whatever your theory as to the past of poetry, the present or the future, you have at least to admit that for the present, among the younger skylarks, Walter Evans Kidd has won indissoluble cause for attention."

Mr. Alexander further writes of the controversy: "One Frederick Schlick precipitated rough weather by crusading, in the columns of the Emerald, against the quality of poetry therein printed and the policy of permitting it to be printed. The entertaining issue of the paper followed. Beginning with an editorial, the subject is considered from a generous variety of all possible angles. After two issues devoted to Mr. Schlick's side, the editorial states that few have changed their minds, or had them changed for them by all the hubbub."

The Democrat-Herald then goes on to quote from both editorial and communications:

"Excerpts from the three-column deluge of letters to the paper defending the Lyric Rainbow column reveals what must prove an astonishing interest in the efforts of the scribes:

"Perhaps the outraged feelings of the negative critics that voice such little sympathy with the campus poets would be appeased with a reprint of poems like 'Tears, Idle Tears,' in the Lyric column, since God with his cake of soap failed to create the expected response. The old wheels would then be able to pass along in the same rhythmical and the same old drowsy way in the same old tracks that were laid in the dear old cradle days. Surely the sincerity and initiative expressed in the works of our campus poets merits praise . . ."

"Not all the defenders displayed that impersonal restraint which usually is to be admired:

"Walter Evans Kidd has as much provincial and national fame as any college student could desire. He was recently ranked by recognized critics as the most original poetry-phrase on this side of the Rockies. He is nationally known due to the several poetry prizes he has won and the poetry he has placed in national magazines. That isn't so bad, is it now? No doubt Mr. Schlick would consider himself Shakespeare if he were in Mr. Kidd's place. . . ."

"The purpose here is not to have anything to say, particularly, about the storm of defense stirred up by the surprised Mr. Schlick. That is an affair of the university campus and not of our pages; and it appears that Lyric Rainbow is the stronger rather than the weaker for the attack made upon it. Sometimes that is the result of attacks. Young poetry at the University of Oregon never knew its own strength until it was challenged. Our purpose, rather, in setting forth the case almost detailedly, is to draw attention to the whole question adumbrated, as Mr. Kidd might say, by the explosion at Eugene. It is not that we would become entrusted with a particular brief for the young hack-a-word poetry in itself, as the ultimate, as mature expression; nor, on the contrary, that we believe the senile styles popular twenty years ago to be all efficient, partaking satisfactorily of perfection. We believe neither. We believe a bit in both, and as Radio KGW's announcer is apt to say, we are glad to have them with us tonight."

"Mr. Kidd himself is a case in point: he might never, lacking welcoming home publication, have progressed to the point he occupies today," the Democrat-Herald says in conclusion, emphasizing the service which can be done to literature by the newspaper press, "and we may assert that local readers suffered their first stiff jolts, the customary delivery of modernistic poets, when first Walter Evans Kidd's poems were contributed to this paper. To repeat, it was good for them to so make contact with the good and the modern, albeit the local, in art; it was unprovincial; if it gave them food for jeers, if it astounded them, it furnished them with the stuff that thought is made of, also."

"There have been other, numerous ones, found when most desperate by these columns, given print, and who were speedily on their way into the fat magazines, the book publishers' lists, where they now abide. It was not, it is true, perspicacity, and certainly nothing of discrimination; it was but a simple policy and a somewhat boundless belief in the veritable value of our aspiring youths. It was counter to all western newspaper custom. It invoked descriptives ranging through 'idiocy' and 'nonsense' to adjectives on the brighter side of the wall. So that if in nothing else, the effort has stirred people to seek for sufficient and expressive curses, and thereby stimulating them. "Meanwhile the Emerald's comparatively new poetry refuge finds itself surrounded, in the first assault, with defenders known and numerously unknown; it finds its adherents a legion indeed beyond its vivid dreaming. Such is the testing and the proof, in unanswerable practice, of the first few literary pioneerings before the home public of the west by home scribblers. . . ."

PHYSICS PROFESSOR TO HAVE U. OF C. FELLOWSHIP

Prof. E. H. McAllister of the physics department, has received a fellowship in the department of physics of the University of California at Berkeley, California. The fellowship will mean his filling a position similar to that of graduate assistants here. The appointment is for the school year beginning next fall.

UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF FLU REPORTED BY DISPENSARY

There is a wave of intestinal flu sweeping over the campus, according to Dr. F. N. Miller, University physician. A great many cases have been reported to the dispensary this week. Fewer heavy colds or cases of grippe than usual are noticeable. Doctor Miller urges that anyone having a touch of intestinal flu report at once to the dispensary for treatment.

PATRONIZE EMERALD ADVERTISERS

Campus Bulletin

Notices will be printed in this column for two issues only. Copy must be in this office by 5:30 on the day before it is to be published, and must be limited to 20 words.

University Orchestra—No meeting Tuesday or Thursday of this week, but all members must be present at 3:30 next Sunday afternoon at the auditorium for a program.

American Red Cross—Meeting of all members life saving corps Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the tank in the Woman's building. Bring your suits.

Class Hockey—All girls that expect to go out for class hockey meet in room 121, Woman's building, tonight.

Decorations and Feature Committees—Meeting Tuesday afternoon, April 28, Administration building, 5 o'clock.

El Circolo Castellano — Meeting Wednesday night, costume party, College Side Inn, 7:15-10:15.

Freshman Commission — Meeting postponed for one week.

Sigma Delta Chi—Meeting today noon at Anchorage.

All Girls interested in class hockey meet at 7:15 tonight. Room 121, Woman's building.

Executive Council—W. A. A. meeting Tuesday at 7 o'clock.

Bernice Yeo, Piano Recital—Tuesday, April 28, Music auditorium, 8 o'clock.

Theta Sigma Phi—Meeting today (Tuesday) noon at Anchorage.

PLEDGING ANNOUNCEMENT
Alpha Omicron Pi announces the pledging of Elizabeth Cady of Portland.

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COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28
8:00 p. m.—Piano recital, Bernice Yeo, Music auditorium.
Wednesday, April 29
4:00 p. m.—Baseball, Whitman-Oregon, new baseball diamond.
Thursday, April 30
11:00 a. m.—Assembly, Woman's building.

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT
The Girls' Oregon club announces the election of: Nola Coad,

Dallas; Helen Thwaite, Hillsboro; Pauline Driscoll, Springfield; Lois Ralston, Melba Mickelson, Ruby Lister, Gudrun Anderson, Evelyn Anderson, Frances Gothard, Annie Parrish, of Eugene.

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS
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Do You Know

That from April on to June, Lexington and Concord, Arlington and Cambridge, with the residents along the line of the famous march from Boston to Concord in 1775, are playing host to the American Nation? This is the sesquicentennial of the colonists' first armed resistance to the mother country. The events of that memorable day are celebrated in verse, story and moving picture. It is an American epic and needs no retelling. Today Lexington and Concord are shrines of the nation, and this year thousands more will make their pilgrimage to these historic spots. It is said that the guest book of the Hancock-Clarke House at Lexington contains more signatures than any other historic place in the country.

The John Hancock is particularly interested in insuring college men and women and obtaining college graduates for the personnel of the field staff.

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