

Oregon Emerald

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Reporting on the 'Grass Roots'?

It has been mentioned many times before that travel is broadening. No so often is the statement qualified with the reply in the obtuse style of perhaps Joe Soap that "there is traveling, and then again traveling."

Among the travelers that improve the mind, broaden the viewpoint, and sharpen the wit must certainly be enumerated the widespread journeyings of the symposium debate groups of the University of Oregon speech department. During a period of seven years members of this organization have taken a revolutionary method of oral art, built it a reputation that takes them out on almost 100 request appearances during the year, and come back to the campus a more informed and educated group.

It would be difficult to add to the record of the symposium members and their directors by recounting their accomplishments here. The people of the state realize their worth and receive them enthusiastically from Bend to Hillsboro. Just yesterday they received a compliment from the chancellor emeritus of the state system, W. J. Kerr, which states the reason for their success. Dr. Kerr, speaking privately to members of the squad after their appearance in Portland yesterday, said that the high quality of work of the University of Oregon symposium squad is a great service to the state.

Looking at the work of the squad more subjectively, one can see that its activity is of service to the members themselves. Getting out into the "grass roots" as they do, they learn many things about Oregon and its people. They find out what people think of the University, of the theories which are taught, and of higher education as a whole.

It seems a shame that all this information received by the members of the symposium group should not be spread further. Members of the squad themselves concur in this opinion and see no reason—other than the lack of demand—that they should appear on the campus.

The opportunities for the general student body themselves to get the benefits of the symposium debate system are very infrequent. Attempts last year to promote something approaching this system (in establishing forum hours after general assemblies) were fruitless, partly from lack of student request and difficulties of arranging conflicts with classes.

Yet the interest of students in general discussion of the informal, fireside type is not gone. It is only lacking in inspiration. The symposium debate group could very easily be the source of inspiration.

The CALLIOPE

By JOE SOAP III

It's darn funny, I said to myself the other day, how so many people have been commenting on this new column and who could be writing it. This column was meant primarily for the fifty-odd politicians, I thought, so it must be that many other people are adopting Joe Soap's motto: "EVERY MAN A POLITICIAN."

But you'll have to admit we can't leave the women out of the scheme of things. So, the question is, how to take the women in and yet maintain the secrecy so vital to politicianing. Well then, why not just continue to let the ATOs be the politicians and let the women be the "power behind the phone"? Or can anyone suggest any better way to take the women in?

Speaking of women and politics, several recent cases of poor administration in various women's events come readily to mind. For instance, when asked for an accounting of the money taken in by various sororities during the dime crawl, all that heads of houses prexy Emmy Norvell had to say was: Oh, I forgot to tell them to turn it in tonight, we'll have our figures ready tomorrow. Forgetfulness in handling money not belonging to you is not very wise Emmy Norvell.

Joe Soap wonders if he can hurt the attendance at various campus functions by praising them to the sky. If people dislike things in the column will they stay away from fine entertainment mentioned herein just to spite me. Would they pass up a very delightful symphony concert at the music school tonight, or the free performance of Lehman's song-cycle, "In a Persian Garden," Wednesday night, or even the ASUO attraction of Trudi Schoop on Thursday night? Would my fifty readers actually cut off their noses to spite their faces, Joe wonders. That would be an interesting phenomenon.

Why doesn't every person reading this go out to those stellar attractions to see if everyone else has stayed home to nurse a grudge against this column? In fact, Joe Soap would provide the ripe tomatoes and become a target on the stage that would drag a few of the dead head swing fans away from their radios.

Last night I had a wonderful dream about the Emerald-Barometer basketball game. It seemed in a sort of hazy way that all of the members on both teams were actually workers on the two papers. Imagination is a wonderful thing, isn't it.

How many holes have been punched on the ASUO cards around

What Other Editors Believe....

"SMOKEY" WHITFIELD EARNS IT

If in years to come Bobby Whitfield becomes one of the famous men of the negro race, his friends in Eugene will not be surprised and they will be very glad because "Smokey" has those qualities which earn respect, regardless of color. For several years Whitfield has set an example of fine sportsmanship on the University of Oregon campus. Not up to "varsity caliber" as a football player, not in the scholarship money as an athlete, he has been the most cheerful and the most faithful of those forgotten men of football, the "scrubs." In boxing he has been more evenly matched; he captains the Oregon boxing team; he has his letter.

But Whitfield's real talents are for the theater. Limited to "bit parts" in most of the University theater's plays on account of his color, he has always managed to add to his part, however small, some touch of artistic distinction. The decision to stage "Emperor Jones" and give Whitfield a chance to star is a tribute to "a real trouper."

Whitfield has a quality which any person white or black might envy. He has natural dignity. He is not "race conscious" or self-conscious. He seems to give and get a great deal of the joy of living. He has remarkable talents to carry away to Broadway or Hollywood. But his ability to earn respect and friendship will be greater than any fame as a gift to his people.—Eugene Register-Guard.

these parts? Probably not as many as there could be. Too bad more people don't appreciate the concerts and entertainments such as Trudi Schoop. Don't they want to get their money's worth out of their cards before the spring term drive starts? Just think, only a couple more weeks and we can all put out the last installment on our \$15 worth of ASUO pasteboard and continue to get many, many other big bargains such as we have had all during the year.

What did I tell you about the politicians being busy?

The junior weekend committee which closed its theme contest at the end of last week was supposed to have had the "ideal theme" chosen by now, according to their publicity. It turns out now that instead of hustling to work after their 5 o'clock deadline Saturday they finally got around today to ask one of the judges to serve. Some of the committee tried to alibi their tardiness by saying that John Stark Evans, one of their judges, is out of town. Mr. Evans proved over the phone last night that he is not absent and mentioned that Kappa Sig's canoe fete co-chairman, Lloyd Hoffman, got around to asking him to serve today. Perhaps Mr. Hoffman was too busy last week counting votes in various Greek houses around Eugene. It wasn't Scott Corbett's fault this time.

Just what kind of a junior weekend are we going to have, boys?

Not that we like to consider the feelings of our neighbors at Corvallis, but just what was the reason for Oregon's failure to give its part of the Lemon-Orange squeeze this year. OSC did its part last week when we played over there. It seems like a good custom to keep going, that is if we can stir the powers-that-be into a little action. Or is Mr. Weston too busy looking ahead to spring term also?

As a parting thought, Joe Soap would like to announce that any persons wishing to millrace him must get on the waiting list. Line forms to the right, boys.

In the Mail

IN JOE'S MAIL

To the Editor:

I rather think this should be addressed to our newest addition to the year's annual and most certainly chronic heckler of politics, rally committee, fraternities and politics. However, since this year's 'edition' chooses to remain anonymous (and 'tis well, Joe ol' boy—I know not a few lads who would be delighted to meet you in a dark alley) I thought perhaps my remarks might reach him through his sole confident, Deutschman. (And I'm sure they will.)

How sarcastic you are, Joe, ol' top. Really, m'lud, your column sometimes even reaches the point of being humorous, with your scathing remarks directed particularly to the few who will undoubtedly be suggested as candidates for that Olympian post, the ASUO candidacy. Mind you, I'm not defending either Corbett or Dick, nor am I commending them. Merely want to say that I don't think much moral courage is involved when such ruthlessly destructive remarks are cast to 'the fifty avid readers' (me—I'm one. Admit it, too. Just gobble your junk up) behind a screen of comparative obscurity. And for a man that suggests 'trick party names and catchy slogans,' your sagacious, if somewhat radical, wit should be able to produce a pseudonym somewhat more clever than the rather plagiaristic take-off on the well known senator of the same name. And why save revealing a few things about Dick's and Corbett's past career until the time they hoist their necks into the prospective presidential limelight. If you've got any dirt on 'em, I for one (nor am I alone in this respect) am just panting to hear it. Besides there wouldn't be half so much smell about telling 'all' now, instead of hanging this undoubtedly dank gossip over their heads until the spring term political machine begins to move. To digress a moment, it occurs to me that you'll really have a field day then. Just think of all the dirt you can divulge to the un inoculated public.

I'll agree with you on one matter, I do believe that all the old-time romance of politics on the campus has passed—the day of soap-boxes, midnight whis-

pers, a smartly generated campaign, and all the rest gone—irrevocably lost. But why? To this question I would be much more delighted to have you direct your attention. Your circulation would increase by leaps and bounds. You would even get your real name in the paper. Think of it, Joe. What a chance!—Pardon my rebuttal sarcasm. I sincerely believe that today's politics, based entirely on apple-polishing, back-slapping, log-rolling and pull has a distinct odor. It seems much more important to me to correct this evil, Joe, than sarcastically tear apart a few individuals on the campus, not perhaps in your opinion—what the heck do we care for that anyway not even knowing who you are—the most outstanding candidates for the top student office, but at least the most outstanding in enough other opinions to put 'em up there. All this assuming, of course, that they will run for the position. Three months can develop many situations.

This has been a very long-winded discussion. I don't deny it. That very virtue keeps it out of print, and makes it a rather personal criticism of your attitude. You'll be hearing from me again, I bet.

Sincerely yours, HSC

P.S.—That article printed a few days ago concerning the 600 suckers and 20,000 lost bucks burned me up! I'm a tong man, an I pay for the privilege—how much I pay, where it goes, whether I'm a 'sucker' or not is nobody else's dam business. And it smelled viddy suspiciously of you, m'lud. If it wasn't, tell whoever wrote it for me (and accept my apologies) that the entire statement was hardly giving both sides to the question. I'm just mad enough that if anyone gave me an opportunity, I'd love to tell the busybody off—to his face, in the paper, or in the pass. The latter would be more to my fancy!

Free Government

(Continued from page one) associate professor of economics; E. H. Moore, professor of sociology; K. J. O'Connell, assistant professor of law; and J. G. Reid, professor of history.

All competing essays must be in on or before May 10, 1939, according to the committee.

Looking Back....

WITH JIMMIE LEONARD

One year ago—Students were complaining about the whistle-tooting marathons at basketball games. An Emerald editorial said: "If we're going to boo, we ought to do so in the gentlemanly manner advocated by the principal when we were in high school."

The average college man had 12,000,000 brain cells.

Five years ago—The Lewis (Maine) Journal recorded Wilson MacDonald, noted Canadian poet, as saying that Oregon and Maine were the two most beautiful states in the Union.

Edison Marshall, graduate of the University of Oregon, started a new serial in Good House-keeping magazine.

Ten years ago—Bobbed hair was coming back into style, according to campus barbers. Men could no longer be shaved, undisturbed by feminine voices. George S. Turnbull, professor of journalism, was absent for the first time in 12 years of teaching at the University. Mr. Turnbull was confined to his home with a slight attack of indigestion.

The Emerald was carrying on a "no-editorial" policy. Students' letters took the place of the editorials. Arden X. Pangborn, Emerald editor, (now managing editor of the Oregonian) stated: "Granted that the news columns are vital to the life of any paper, editorials may easily become merely the intellectual whim of the editors."

Ida M. Tarbell, famed biography writer, was the lone "coed" at Allegheny college in the class of 1876.

Delta Phi Epsilon is the first and only national professional foreign trade fraternity.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

AT THE INFIRMARY

Ward five at the infirmary has bars on its windows.

The inmate of this ward with its prison atmosphere, Margaret Betts, can't understand why they had to put her in the only room with bars.

"Of course," she said, "my friends all offer explanations."

Yesterday Margaret was enjoying the peace and quiet of the infirmary. In fact she enjoys it so much that she declared, "I love it here. I'd like to stay quite awhile." Her two visitors explained that perhaps she wished to stay because her roommates had promised her a job of cleaning their room when she returned.

"The one thing I don't like here," said Margaret, "is the early hours. They turn off the lights at 9:30."

Margaret had two school books in the room but she keeps them well hid. "I'd just as soon forget about books now," she said. She refused to comment on the food except to say that she had ice cream twice one day.

Only 10 students were resting up at the infirmary yesterday. The patients included: Cecil Igoe, Doris King, Frances Williams, Ina Furrell, Willis Pack, William Brenner, Glenn Briedwell, James Ray, and Elaine Ann Gordon.

UO Debaters Travel

(Continued from page one)

itus of the state system of higher education. He said that the high quality of work of the symposium speakers is a great service to the state.

Today the squad will speak at the Sheridan high school, with George Luoma and Delmore Rice replacing Clark and Erickson.

John Stark Evans To Direct Choir In Portland Concert

John Stark Evans, professor of music at the University, will present the Portland First Presbyterian church choir of which he is organist and choir master, in concert Sunday evening in Portland.

For probably the first time it has been presented in the Northwest, the group will sing "Stabat Mater" by Dvorak.

Several great composers have

written numbers entitled "Stabat Mater." Of these Dvorak's composition is one of the most beautiful, though very difficult. Typical of Dvorak is its graceful melody with an unusual harmonic background.

CONTEST POSTPONED

The W. F. Jewett oratorical contest, which was to have been held March 1, has been postponed until March 29, according to J. L. Casteel, director of the speech division.

Why write? Send the Emerald home to the folks.

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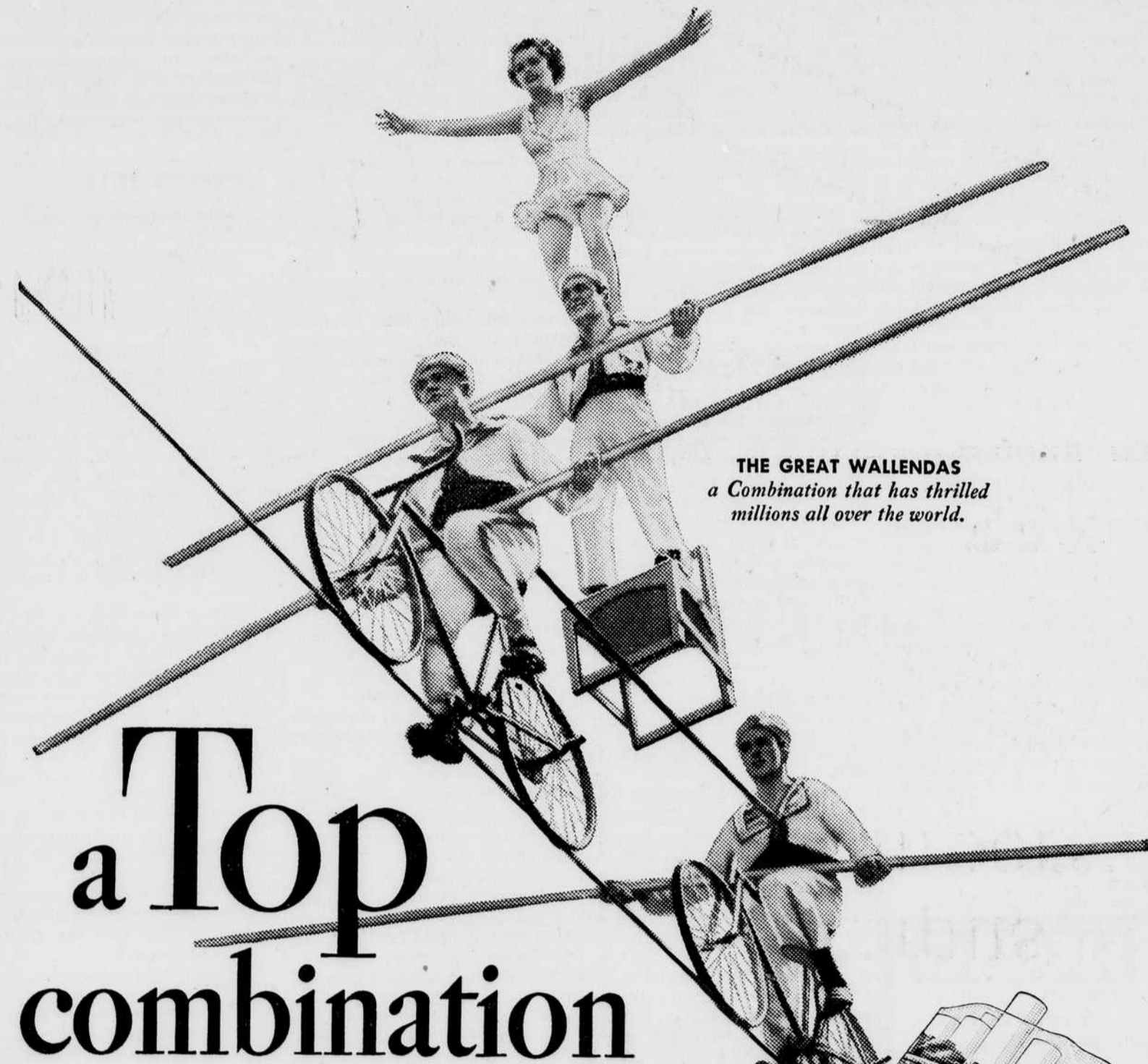
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