

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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The Failing-Beekman Contest

THE importance of the Failing-Beekman oratory contest clearly has been underemphasized in the last few years. The amount of publicity it has received and the student response to the contest have been but poor indications of the real value of the thing.

In the first place, contrary to popular opinion, the contest is open to all graduating seniors. It does not make any difference whether a student is a speech major, or has ever taken speech, as far as the judges are concerned. Further, the name oratory does not quite describe the contest. Only one-half of the points in judging are given on effectiveness of presentation—the rest is based upon the thought matter contained in the various talks. That point is not always understood in student circles.

THE contest offers an excellent opportunity for a student who is interested in a certain problem to gather the material on the topic, digest it, and then to present it in his own words. More valuable and more practical education can hardly be imagined. The problems are almost unlimited, but the written draft must be presented to the judges for an okay before the finals of the contest are gained.

Of course important considerations—at least for the seniors—are the prizes of \$150 and \$100 which are given to the first and second place winners.

These few points should indicate beyond much doubt that the Failing-Beekman contest is worthy of every senior's participation, and certainly merits the interest of the entire student body.

He Should Have Come

LAST Thursday a typical American figure named Will Irwin was scheduled to address Oregon students and faculty on the importance of youth's backing for the nationwide drive for aid to the small democracies of Europe.

But Mr. Irwin didn't come. Eugene wasn't really scheduled on his list of appearances on the coast, and he had just hoped to slip in his talk here in order to create a relief-consciousness on this campus.

If Mr. Irwin had been able to speak to the University group he would have probably told undergraduates that the five small democracies are starving, that the United States is about to sit in judgment upon the fate of 30,000,000 people of Europe, who are facing a famine this winter against which they are helpless.

He would probably have declared that there are just three quarters from which aid can come: the United States, England, and Germany. And two of those countries are, to put it mildly, very busy.

HE would have startled Webfoots by his declaration that only the tiny country of Portugal now commands a normal food supply, that France, Spain, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands are threatened with starvation before harvest time; that Belgium and central Poland now have existing famine.

He would perhaps have quoted the New York Sun of February 19, which declared "The talk is of war or immediate help to Britain to preserve democracy. No voices are raised in the broad interest of a humanity suffering already from starvation and threatened famine . . . no voices except perhaps that of Herbert Hoover and a devoted group of friends."

He would have shown facts and figures to prove that the organization's carefully-designed plan to keep the food from falling into German hands would work. The idea is to send into any of the small democracies only enough food at one time to last three or four days, so that any capture by Germany would cause little loss. If Britain discovered that food was

being misappropriated by Germany, imports through the blockade would cease.

HE would probably declare that his committee for aid to the small democracies is not asking for money, supplies or ships . . . but for an "aroused public conscience." The European countries would pay for the good provided.

It is too bad that Mr. Irwin had to cancel his Eugene address. For Oregonians tend to become so intrigued in marking strategic "x's" on maps of the Balkans or north Africa and in moving imaginary ships around the Mediterranean that they forget humanity itself.

In the midst of building ships to destroy, and planes to kill, Americans who base their conception of life on every man's right to live should find a common interest with Mr. Hoover and his committee. For the committee does not ask for donations or government appropriation . . . it is a neutral organization designed to make food available to those millions hemmed in by a fierce economic blockade. All that they ask is American sympathy for the job they are doing.—H.A.

International Side Show

By RIDGELY CUMMINGS

The biggest news since the war on Germany then it is vital German smash into Greece is the Russian-Japanese non-aggression pact which was signed over the weekend, and if I hadn't got im-



Cummings

broiled in a controversy with Gene Edwards I would have written about it sooner. But now that I have given Gene an "out" by indicating that he may be only a Tory instead of a potential fascist, why the road is clear.

To Explain the Pact

In the first place, the pact is simply a promise by each nation that it will respect the "territorial inviolability" of the other. If Japan is the "object of military action on the part of one or several powers" Russia promises to remain neutral, and vice versa if Russia is attacked Japan promises hands off.

Now I don't profess to have any inside track, but the way I see it, it is an unfortunate move from the point of view of the United States and possibly Germany, and a good move from the Russian and Japanese viewpoint.

It is bad for the U.S. because it apparently nullifies the wooing actions of our state department toward the Soviets. A month or so ago Secretary Hull lifted the "moral embargo" that was clamped on the "communists" because of their unprovoked attack on Finland. At the same time certain trade concessions were made to Russia and wiseacres like myself said, "Aha, the U.S. is trying to get Joe Stalin in the proper frame of mind to jump on Japan's vulnerable Siberian flank when and if Japan gets tough with the U.S."

Japan Has Free Hand

By the non-aggression pact Stalin promises not to do this, and thus Japan gains a freer hand in the Pacific and the U.S. gets a set-back.

From the German point of view it may not be so good either. Russia signed a friendship pact with Jugoslavia just before Germany attacked that Balkan nation. Why did Russia sign? Probably because Russia is worried over the German expansion southward toward the Dardanelles. After Jugoslavia and Greece comes Turkey, and if the Nazis invade Turkey, once they cross the Hellespont they have cut the Russian outlet into the Mediterranean. Russian shipping could be bottled up in the Black sea. No nation likes being bottled up, including probably Russia.

What to Do?

Now if Russia is getting worried by the Nazi expansion it is natural that she may be thinking of doing something about it. "Doing something" these days seems to mean war, and if Russia plans

to her that she fight the war on only one front. By signing a five-year friendship pact with Japan, Russia gains a promise of freedom from attack along her Siberian coastline.

A couple months ago when this country gave twenty million dollars or some equally huge sum to China, this column predicted the possibility that the Russians would pull out of China and leave the U.S. holding the bag.

And so, Russia

Your prognosticator predicted then that Russia was playing it smart, that what the communists wanted to see was the rest of the world exhausted by war and hence susceptible to communist propaganda. If this country is willing to subsidize the Chiang Kai-Shek battle (don't misunderstand me, it is probably a good battle if any battle is good) then that's okay with Russia. They'll spend their kopeks at home providing somebody keeps the Chinese fighting the Japanese.

Of course the pact is distinctly embarrassing to the Chinese communists, but that means nothing to Stalin, for the party line is continually embarrassing its adherents in some nation or another.

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Third UO Airman Makes First Solo

Third to solo in the spring term civil pilot training class, John Hardy took his initial lone flight Tuesday. Instructed by Harold Sander, Hardy had accumulated eight hours of dual flying before making his attempt alone.

Yesterday's soloist was preceded by Jack Hannegan and Harold Schluter, who flew alone over the weekend. The remaining 47 students in the class of 50 are in various stages of instruction, according to the CPT office, with many planning to solo sometime this week.

The Passing Parade

By NICHOLAS POROZOFF

Guest Columnist for Doc Henry

You're a coast GADABOUT . . . IF . . . you've spent a week-end at Palm Springs and instead of movie celebs ran into all your friends from school, there on some excuse or another. . . IF you've gone into Ciro's on the Strip and ran into Sigma Chi Dick Grady instead of Carmen Miranda. . . if you've sat in on sessions with Freddy Martin, Russ Morgan, Brenda Marshall, Bill Holden, and Frank Loesser, he by the way wrote DOLORES, the tune that the Merry Macs plus the Bingus are doing such a nice job on . . . if you have, you were at the Palladium, million dollar nitery in the film capital.

If you saw four thousand collegians all eating at the same time and applauding every five minutes, you were present at the Interfraternity Alumni dinner . . . and you'd have clapped your hands too . . . entertainment by Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Russ Morgan, and Johnny Richards . . . speakers, Senator "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky, Cal's prexy Gordon Sproul and Rufus B. von Klein-Smid of SC . . . yet.

You've really been around if you've taken in the "Windsor" lounge of the Senator in Sacramento, and in the lobby all you saw were Oregon alums and ex's . . . like going to a Pan-Hellenic session . . . have you ever? they're more fun n'anything, I hear say.

And in San Francisco, if a dapper orchestra leader came up to you and asked you to say hello to Chuck Mallory, Sigma Nu, and if Cobina Wright Jr. brushed past you and William Saroyan, the genius, and scribe Herb Caen, S.F.'s Walter Winchell, were talking to Mischa Auer . . . drag out your social register, you just walked through the lobby of the Mark . . . state-ly queen of hotels . . . and if you've seen royalty in person, Prince and Princess Vasili Romanoff, Princess Galitzine and Countess Barbara, with one Cary Grant, by name, and once more the Cobina Wrights . . . Junior and Senior this time . . . well, don't let it get you . . . you were merely lunching in Palm Court of the Palace hotel.

If Ed Langweil, associate editor of LIFE magazine, Fred Bohlen, he of LOOK, Herb Corwin who puts out GAME and GOSSIP and Bing Crosby were dining together . . . there'll be no trouble as to guessing where . . . Ball room of Hotel Del Monte.

If Kyser, first name's Kay, asked about Pat Taylor, Babs Reed and Sue Peil . . . then you know he still remembers ye olde E-u-gene.

In Portland if the gal that showed you around was Patsy Shea, KKG . . . and the young man with slightly greying hair talked about the Balkan situation . . . then you were taking in the sights with Northwest boy Don Forbes . . . over your radio dials you know him as the RICH-FIELD REPORTER . . . no less.

In Seattle . . . if you were in a cornside booth with Ellie Kent (KKG) plus hubbie Brad Smith and Nancy Hay also plus husband . . . then you were in the Olympic's grill . . . hangout of U of W glitterbugs.

In closing, Oregonians thankx (Continued on page five)