

# The Cutting Room

By BILL BUELL

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"One of the ten greatest pictures of all time," boldly asserted the Heilig theater's advertisement in Sunday's Register-Guard. The cinema "epic" referred to was "Phantom of the Opera."

The advertisement's declaration is a slight overstatement of fact. "Phantom of the Opera" can properly be classified as a good picture, but we don't have to burn out many brain cells to think of considerably more than ten greater ones.

In the 1920's Lon Chaney played the title role in a "Phantom of the Opera" that was a real thriller, guaranteed to produce spinal chills in a plaster statue. But 1943's is in the horror picture tradition, this movie leaves an impression of lavish technicolor and operatic arias, rather than one of the screams in the night and prowling monsters.

### Another Mr. Pruneface

The story centers around Claude Rains, who starts the picture as a mild mannered, middle-aged violinist in the orchestra of the Paris Opera. After a series of misfortunes which include being frustrated in his secret passion for Soprano Susanna Foster, losing his job, and having a pan of acid thrown in his face which leaves him looking like a prune dipped in red ink, this dear little man is converted into a homicidal maniac.

He sets up housekeeping in the sewer under the opera house and keeps things lively by such little stunts as strangling a prima donna and sawing down a 10-ton chandelier which crashes into the audience.

### Who's Afraid, Etc.

Before the great metamorphosis Mr. Rains does a fine job of portraying the gentle musician. But as the phantom he is about as terrifying as an angry canary.

Although he has nothing to do with the phantom story, Nelson Eddy is the star of the picture. Mr. Eddy has still not learned the rudiments of acting, but, together with Miss Foster, he keeps things going in an operatic way.

### We Heapum Congratulations

We heap congratulations upon the writers of the "Phantom" for not closing the picture with the trite and totally unconvincing embrace which usually ends this type of cinema. Miss Foster walks off the screen in one direction, Mr. Eddy in the other . . . a truly refreshing innovation.

### Onthank Cites

(Continued from page one)

Three general types of training are offered at the University, leading to positions as professional personnel technicians, personnel executives in business and industry, and personnel assistants. Background and theoretical instruction is supplemented as much as possible, especially in advanced courses, by practical work under supervision.

Those members of the faculty who are available for consultation by students seeking information on opportunities and requirements in personnel work are: Jesse H. Bond, professor of business administration; William C. Jones, professor of political science and public administration; Karl W. Onthank, dean of personnel administration; Howard R. Taylor, professor of psychology; Leona E. Tyler, assistant professor of psychology.

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## The Extra Effort . . .

Last Friday night an open forum discussion on politics and the relation of people to them was held in Gerlinger hall. Of 1,600 civilian students, the overwhelming number of 40 attended.

There are several reasons for this slight attention paid to a session which was quite adequately played up in advance, and which proved to be as informative without being dull as anything we have had here this term. One was that the time was particularly ill-chosen. Friday night is always a bad night for any but social affairs, and last Friday night happened to be the time selected for several other events. Part of the blame, therefore, lies with whoever picked the date.

But even had the forum been held during the middle of the week with nothing conflicting, attendance probably would not have been much higher than it was. Students don't like to gather together purely to discuss politics. They hash it over a great deal among themselves, and that is good, but the idea of gathering in one place for a formal discussion on the subject makes all but a few of the serious minds distrustful for fear they will be bored. The very name "forum" carries with it connotations of weighty discourse and dryness in controversy, consequently you can hardly blame them.

But there is one way in which a person may stifle his natural reluctance toward anything which partakes of depth, and that is to wade right into it. It takes an "extra effort" to get started, but that is true of every attempt ever made. The forum is less dull—and more instructive—than many class lectures which students are forced to attend. As a result, if they once attend a forum, they'll wonder why they were ever reluctant in the first place.

\* \* \* \*

Most students get more out of "bull sessions" than they ever will out of any number of forums for the simple reason that they pay much closer attention to what is said. That is an obstacle for the forum leader to overcome. His material must be so interesting and his guidance of the course of talk so skillful that the students drink in every word and listen closely for more.

These two points have already been achieved for the most part. The faculty has done what it could toward awakening the drowsing intellects of students. It is up to us to pull those sleeping minds out of bed.

—N.Y.

## First or Last?

This is a salute to some people who have put first things first—the seniors just elected to Senior Six of the University of Oregon Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

In theory, students attend universities and colleges for the purpose of obtaining an education. In practice, many students attend for social reasons, or to have a good time, or because their parents make them, or because they haven't anything better to do. Moreover, many of those who enter universities with a serious desire to learn become distracted by other interests not purely academic. We say of such students that they major in extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular activities are fine and worthwhile, and no student should be without some non-scholastic interest. A social life is important and necessary, and no student should miss the entertainment and recreation social affairs offer.

A university education in its fullest sense must include phases of extracurricular activities, social activities, athletic activities, and similar life away from books. Students should not spend all of their time with books and midnight oil. Some of the most valuable opportunities afforded by a university include meeting people, making friends, having fun, and working hard at such activities as painting drama flats, serving cookies at a YW tea, or setting heads for the Emerald. Such activities may be called "experience" or "making important contacts" or whatever you wish—they're lots of fun and they're a worthwhile use of time.

But they shouldn't come first. That place is reserved for an often-forgotten phase of university life—studies, books,

## A Slip of the Lip

By PEG HEITSCHMIDT and BOBBI BEALER

House dances predominated for weekend entertainment—and mighty smooth some of them were, too. The Chi Omega Barn Dance (Cow Omega) was nothing but fun—ditto for the Kappas, Gamma Phis and Birch lodge. The barn dance idea is as good this year as it ever was, and the army boys cooperate by wearing their fatigues.

Slipping down from Willamette to attend the Gamma Phi butte—now a ghastly orange! Rumor has it that some visiting ROTC boys from OSC are to blame.

No, it isn't sunstroke that's affecting Alpha Chi Chuck Pelly that way. Her main trouble is Lieutenant Len Surles, Sigma Chi, who is due to arrive on the campus any minute.

Wedding bells rang out for last year Fiji Bob Kendall and Chi O Frances McCarthy, who were married Tuesday.

Alder lodge's Bette Tharp and Engineer Warren Miller appear to be a pretty steady couple these days—how about that?

From our male section of the Gestapo, we hear reports of a secret admirer of ASUO prexy Pi Phi Nancy Ames, Bill Davis is the name, ADPi houseboy, but don't tell anyone we told you.

Glimpsed at the Persian room Saturday were Al Hoffman, DU, now with the ski troopers, and last year Tri-Delt steady Betty Thomas, who trekked down from Portland for the occasion.

Among those "also present" were Theta Chi Jack Gibson, down from Willamette and squirring Virginia Glover. Bob Hope, Phi Delt, another V-12er was with Kappa Nanette Holmes, while brother Ralph of the army dated Lois McConkey, Alpha Chi glamour gal.

By the way—where is the OSC beaver now? Last reports hinted of its disposal into La Mill race. Revenge has descended upon us, however—just cast your eyes north toward the O on Skinner's

### Methodist War Time

(Continued from page one)

the student plenary sessions. Mrs. John Worthington, director of student activities in Eugene, Miss Pearl E. Sherlock, executive secretary of the Oregon conference board of education, and Professor Norman Clark of Willamette university, will act as resource counselors.

Recreation planned by Betty Walden of Oregon State college will include "Get-Acquainted" Friday night, a "Pet Book Jam Session" Saturday afternoon, and a Saturday evening party.

Pennsylvania has more colleges than any other state in the Union.

classes, academic education. Universities were created to train and impart knowledge to student minds. But how can it function if some of those student minds skip classes and neglect their studies to attend a meeting of some clean-up committee at which committee policies are to be formulated?

And so we salute the Senior Six, who by putting first things first, have combined curricular and extracurricular activities into a true university education. Their achievements are a challenge.

—J.N.

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