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The Lamps Burn Low

Lord Gray once said that all over Europe the lamps were going out. An American article writer amended that statement by saying that all over Europe the lamps were being blown out. The remark could be amended still further by declaring that all over the world the lamps are flickering dangerously, if not actually in the process of being extinguished by the hurricanes

For these reasons it is more important to us than we realize to have the assurance that for the second straight year Odeon, the annual all-student exhibition of artistic endeavor, will be shown on the campus. Odeon is something unique in the field of student presentations. Unique not merely because it is entirely devoted to exhibiting the creative attempts of students in the fields or art, literature, music, dance, and drama, but unique because it was conceived in wartime and first presented in wartime in spite of its being irrevocably opposed to all the things which war stands for.

War, they teach us here—and correctly—brings an abrupt end to all liberal reform. That applies not only to social problems, but to the arts also, and it does not take a Dewey or a John Stuart Mill to see why. The new art which does come forth does so by feeding on the excitement and problems created by the war itself. This is a false, artificial method of propagation. Books with war themes, paintings concerned with battlefields, soldiers, and scenes of devastation, music that expresses, or endeavors to express, some phase of war philosophy -few of these have ever survived to be considered great art, although they may well be intensely popular during the actual war period. Creations that do survive deal, as a rule, not primarily with the war, but with human problems and emotions which merely have the war as their basic root—in other words, the turbulence of the times is merely utilized, as a matter of convenience, to create a situation.

On the whole, then, war, and especially modern, all-out struggle, tends to paralyze the intellect, to stifle the more refined parts of the creative instinct. Odeon, however, is among the agencies which tend to stimulate the mind and arouse the artistic urge, as well as to keep the sense of appreciation of art alive among those who do not create. And more, its appeal works among college students-the group which literally has the future of America and of the world in its hands, to make or break. Under these circumstances the healthy continuance of Odeon takes on enormous significance,

But first, Odeon's continuance must be made healthy. At present its sponsors are not at all sure that the show will be as comprehensive or rich in talent as last year. Four-fifths of the male students have gone, including some lively creative minds. Interest in short-story writing, poetry, drawing, and the arts in general, has flagged. The lamps are definitely burning low here at Oregon.

There will, no doubt, be enough seriously inclined, artistically minded students to insure an exhibit of excellent quality. But the real success or failure of Odeon for the duration depends upon the interest shown by the student body in general. Art suffers unless it's fed by appreciation. If art suffers, than the whole of humanity suffers from intellectual starvation. With intellectual starvation comes intellectual paralysis, and with this paralysis comes barbarism. Civilized barbarism, if you will have it so, but barbarism, none the less.

Do we want civilized barbarians? Maybe we are. However, as long as we can still take an interest in attempts like Odeon, we're keeping our better selves more alive than we might otherwise be. We may still hold out hopes for ourselves .- N.Y.

"It is not merely a military clique, but 80,000,000 fanatics who will fight to their death" that the Allies face, says Ramon LaCelle, one-time writer for La Nacion and a member of the Argentine embassy in Japan until recently. "Japanese people will stop at nothing to help their government win this war," he explained. "There is no meat, no sugar, no coffee, no tea, but above all-no complaints. A Japanese family gets two eggs a month, fish once a week, and subsists mainly on a poor quality of rice."

Up From UO

By PEGGY OVERLAND

Joe Gordon, '39, that unassuming graduate of the University who by 1941 was hailed as the pivot man for the Yanks and was the man behind the scenes in the Yanks' winning the American league pennant for that year, has come back to his alma mater. At least that is the latest rumor since Gordon returned to Eugene this fall. And it would be a fitting climax for "the greatest second baseman in history," to return as an instructor in physition to the campus from which

he sprang to fame.

Joseph Lowell Gordon was the type of man who did everything for himself. He had to pull himself by his bootstraps, and his early life was no Sunday school picnic. He had to shift for himself. His education at the University was completely self-supported, and although sporadic it managed to net him a bachelor of science degree in 1939. Coming from Portland to acquire his education, Gordon was determined to finish, and he did even after he had made good in the major league baseball.

While he was at the University, he naturally was one of the outstanding athletes on the campus. He developed the remarkable agility which has distinguished him on the diamond by tumbling on the gymnastics team. He also played football, basketball, and baseball.

It was while he was playing for the Oregon varsity that he was spotted by Yankee Scout Bill Essick. Essick signed him, and Joe began the long and not so tough road which has led him to baseball fame and glory.

A record of his profeessional career might read something like the following: shortstop for the Yankee farm at Oakland in the Pacific Coast league during the 1936 season when his batting average ran a cool .300 and his fielding developed into the skilled ability that it has always been; spring training in the Yankee camp at St. Petersburg, Florida, when Joe McCarthy decided Joe's best spot was second base and sent him out to Newark to learn the intricacies of that position; a successful season at Newark where, although his batting average dropped to .280, he pounded out 26 homers and drove 89 runs across the plate. It was here that, although his position had been changed, Gordon still managed to bring his fielding average up to .948.

In 1938 McCarthy called him back to the Yanks to fill in for Tony Lazzeri, and it was here that Gordon began the amazing career that has placed him at the top in baseball. Since then his professional career has been one season after another of skilled playing where his position

as second baseman has won him such renown.

His home life is as average as his career is not. He is a father

and spends a great deal of his time at home. His hobbies take up most of the winter layoff. Every year he returns to his home in Eugene to forget baseball and relax. However, according to Joe, this year he has come home to stay and really forget professional baseball as far as playing is concerned.

He still loves to hunt in the upper regions of the Oregon hinterland, where with several friends he goes up in the McKenzie pass district every winter to hunt deer. When the duck and pheasant seasons open, he usually heads for Ontario in eastern Oregon for a few days of tramping through the country in search of game birds. Fishing and his hunting dogs are other hobbies that keep him busy.

Clips and Comment

By MARGUERITE WITTWER

A symposium on the physics of natural and synthetic rubber and other high polymers will be the highlight of the 257th meeting of the American Physical society to be held in the Technological Institute of Northwestern university. More than 350 engineers, chemists, and physicists will attend the conference. Outstanding research men from industrial firms and professors from many universities will participate and at least 15 different phases of this vastly important war product-rubber-will be covered.

SKIP DAY

Students at Drake university will celebrate Homecoming with the first official Skip day since the two-year tradition was established in the 1941 Homecoming when they took matters into their own hands. As part of Skip day activities free movies will be shown and the Homecoming Queen, chosen by the football squad, will be introduced by the gridiron captain at the assembly. Sororities and dormitories will compete with each other for a prize awarded for house decorations, but, due to wartime restrictions, the budget for house decorations is limited to \$2. Preceding the game the college training detachment will perform the flagraising ceremony, and Drake, Iowa State, and air corps bands will entertain between the halves. During the game sorority women will canvass the stadium for contributions to the "Smokes for Soldiers fund."

"SO BE KIND TO YOUR FRIENDS IN THE SWAMP

Kansas University girls' swimming organization is called the Quack club. . . Sounds like something exclusively for us Ducks!

JUST TO BEAT THE JAPS Ten coeds at Syracuse univer-

Wintertime'

with

SONJA HENIE

Closed Monday, Tuesday

Upens

Thursday

and Wednesday

sity in New York form the tabulating committee which has

jewelry collected from living centers and campus boxes and of sending it in five-pound packages to marines in the south Pacific area . . . Another drive is com-"WOMEN REVERSE THE UNIVERSE"-AGAIN

charge of the handling of junk

Redheads, brunets, and blonds, all tall, stalwart, and handsome —33 men competed for the title of War Chest King at the University of Washington recently. At a War Chest assembly the 1) finalists were presented and the King was introduced to the Queen of Seattle College's War drive and to her court of 15 orous coeds . . . Uh huh, any day now we'll have that woman president, too.

LINE FORMS AT THE RIGHT, GIRLS

-And don't push! Date bureaus are doing a thriving business on campuses all over the country. The University of Washing bureau interviewed 70 coed applicants the first day-sizes ranging from five feet one inch to five feet nine inches. Blondes and redheads were in the minority with only eight representatives. Although the coeds admitted they would rather go deacing, dates for sports, m plays, concerts, and lectures very satisfactory . . . Even a walk around the block or a shared milkshake, huh?



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