

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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"Interim Assignment" . . .

The selection of Orlando J. Hollis as acting head of the University is all ways a pleasing, heartening thing from the students viewpoint. As one student put it, "He's honest, by golly, and he has the most uncanny way of finding the point of a conversation." Those of us who have seen him in action at a board meeting look with some awe upon his ability to call for the question. Make no mistake, it is an ability. That knack, which he probably acquired the hard way, of clarifying an issue is something very rare and very valuable to students who must choose their official attitudes and their private ones, when University government is concerned.

We're going to know just where he stands, every time. And we're going to know why he's standing there. A university is just as full of puzzlements and unresolved questions as any other organization. When you combine these problems with the attitude of the "best" which is a university's goal, and which is constantly referred to the situation can get very hazy, not to say impossible. And that's where courageous thinking can make the difference between confusion and good government.

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There has been fear that the University would lose the forward march it has taken in recent years. Right now, as the prospect of postwar readjustment and development faces Oregon—clear thinking, and clear vision seem imperative. As Mr. Hollis stated, "The University of Oregon must not lose ground or mark time while it is without a permanent leader; it must go forward." Mrs. Beatrice Sackett, of the state board of higher education, has made it clear that "this is not a policy making year", that this is (quoting Mr. Hollis) an "interim assignment". However, it is an assignment of clearly great importance. The plans and policies which the late Dr. Erb was working through in matters of education, postwar planning, and development of the school as a state influence are recognized and honored, but if they are to be strengthened, the "interim assignment" cannot be just gap-filling.

* * * *

If it surprises some people that students at Oregon are concerned with the events on this campus which may occur within this next year when some of them will be gone, it would be well for them to remember that many students, however inarticulate, want their school to become greater. Theories of education for the betterment of a state and of a nation take root in their thinking—even though they may remark cynically about current methods. They want, and will respect improvements. They need fine teachers, and will learn from them. They want, and will imitate wise approach to government wherever they see it.

M. M. G.

A Pat On The Back . . .

We don't want to put on airs. But a comment from a former University of Oregon student now in ASTP training at an institution which we shan't mention, may well make us at least permit ourselves a pat on the back.

This disgruntled ex-UO-er says: "The soldiers here at Oregon don't know how lucky they are. Where I'm in training soldiers are not permitted to attend any of the social functions of the civilian student body whatsoever, and even independent dating is strongly, if unofficially discouraged by the university officials."

As a contrast, we at Oregon take it as a matter of course that the soldier-students on the campus will be permitted to take part in the Nickel Hop as they have done in several other social events this term. We are pretty sure that this particular case of snobbery is an isolated one, nonetheless it contains two points well worthy of note:

One is, that a state bordering on concealed warfare is here demonstrated to be by no means impossible. Relations here have been smooth on the surface so far winter term, but beneath smoulder a number of trivial grievances which cause perpetual, if slight friction. "Every little makes a mickle," how-

Letters to the Editor

December 20, 1943

Dear Editor:

It seems very odd to be writing to the Emerald and not putting a name on the envelope which I knew while in school. Nevertheless, I have just read my first Emerald for this school year, namely, the issue of October 19, 1943. Congratulations on your splendid work and the very efficient manner in which you have preserved the Oregon tradition—at least what is left of it!

Of course, being in the navy, I have acquired a tolerable attitude towards the "dog-faces". Nevertheless at the first news of the Oregon campus receiving many of the "same" for training, it made me, and many others, very thankful. For now, the school will continue, some old Oregon ideas will be retained and many fellows will receive very excellent training for specialized service.

Two articles, which were very interesting, were the "Letters to the Editor", and "Oregon Firsts", an editorial. Fred Beckwith's (V-12) letter mentioned so many of the fellows. Their schooling helps, out here, when you wonder if enough men will be obtained to win the conflict.

The editorial presenting the fact of "earning" what you receive whether education, life, or pleasure is something everyone is learning during these times. How anyone could be "bored" with college life right now—please tell us about them!! Especially now, one never knows what the next day, week, or year will bring. In order to prepare for it, they are studying in universities, drilling on parade grounds, going through tactical maneuvers in the field and, working at their particular job until they have learned every minute detail.

Then comes the "final exam"! At an unannounced hour many blue, khaki, or green-clad men board a transport and steam out of the harbor. With them goes the finest equipment available and knowledge gained from these many hours of study and practical work. Some time later they arrive at a foreign port and disembark. Then comes those long and weary hours of transporting equipment or sleepless nights while "pills" are being dropped by "Low-Winged Jos". It is during those times the American fellow uses those ideas he had to earn!

Even with all the seriousness attached to school now, there still should be dances, parties, etc. For when those "cool evenings under a palm tree, on a coral beach" arrive, it is the best "bracer-up" to have a bull session about "that Junior Prom in '42" or the "house dance at the Thetas".

I have met several fellows in this area who attended Oregon or Oregon State and are now doing specialist work in the navy hospital corps. I am running a laboratory and doing malaria and mosquito control work. We identify all the mosquitos (six-legged dive bombers) we collect from several areas and then lay out plans for removal of breeding areas.

Time for our evening entertain-

ever, and it is up to us to see that the flame of dissent is not fanned but pinched out.

* * * *

The Nickel Hop is definitely a step in the right direction. Which brings us to the second, and lighter, of our two points, namely, that we may allow ourselves a pat on the back, if only a very slight one, for the manner in which we have brought the soldiers into our college social life. They lead hard lives, by our standards, and the most that we have to give them is not a bit too much. Let's keep up the good work. N. Y.

Globally Speaking

By BILL SINNOTT

Th recent revolution in Bolivia is probably the greatest threat to the Good Neighbor policy since its inauguration.

Bolivia is the most backward state in South America. The country has averaged at least one revolution per year since gaining its independence from Spain.

In addition to suffering continually from the ravages of revolution, Bolivia has never recovered from the effects of two unsuccessful wars. In the so-called War of the Pacific, (1879-1881) she lost her seacoast, with its enormously rich nitrate deposits, to Chile.

The "idea fixe" of every Bolivian government since that time has been to regain these lost provinces. President Penaranda was deemed by the revolutionists to have been slack in presenting his country's demands for territorial revision against Chile.

The Chaco war of the last decade, in which Bolivia was soundly thrashed by little Paraguay, also has contributed to the present unrest. Bolivian Indians, conscripted into the army, died like flies in the torrid jungles of the "Green Hell" as the Chaco was called. They were used to the rarified air of their mountain country, where the average height is around 10,000 feet.

Bolivia's only major source of wealth lies in her rich tin deposits. The tin barons supported the ousted Penaranda government. The Bolivian "tin king," Simon Patino, has led a life comparable to that of the famous Count of Monte Cristo of Dumas. He was born in a poor Indian hovel in the Cochabamba district, and when he was a young man, he opened a wretched little store.

At one time he was given a worthless mining claim in payment of a debt. The mine was later found to contain limitless tin deposits, and thus the Patino saga got its start.

The "tin king" amassed a fortune totalling 200 millions of dollars! He manipulated himself into the position of minister to France in 1920 in order to escape having to pay certain taxes from which government officials were exempt. Since he went to Paris he has never set foot in his native country.

He married his son, Antenor, to a Bourbon princess. Antenor is now Bolivian minister to Great Britain—and like his father he took that appointment merely in order to escape taxes!

Patino married his daughter, Elena, to the Marques del Merito, the Spanish sherry king. As wedding present he gave her Marie Antoinette's \$1,000,000 pearl necklace.

Ex-President Penaranda was purely a "stooge" of Patino. The tin baron's workers, in revolting, were striking against an employ-

ment and a beer! Yes, we get about three bottles (just a new morale builder introduced here) a week and have three movies. Best of luck to all the Oregon fellows, wherever they are, and to the "new" Oregon men. Expect to see Gerald Johnson (Capt!) in a few days so will save the Emerald for him.

Sincerely,
J. C. Walsh
Ph m 2-c, U. S. N. R.
Navy 421—
c-o Fleet Postmaster
San Francisco,
California

er who paid them only a few dollars a month. Penaranda's troops fired on the strikers in one locality, killing 400 of them.

German influence has always been strong in Bolivia. In the twenties, General Kuntz and Hitler's "friend" Ernest Roehm, who was later killed in the purge of 1934, developed the army into an efficient modern fighting force.

Two years ago leaders uncovered a Nazi plot to overthrow the Penaranda regime. The instigators were Major Belmonte, Bolivian military attache in Berlin, and Paz Estenssoro, who headed the present revolt.

The revolution, then, is obviously a potent protest against prevailing social conditions, as well as the expression of the desire for more land and an avenue to the sea.

Bolivia forms a buffer state between Brazil and Argentina. President Villaroel spent some time in Buenos Aires just before the revolt broke out.

The Argentine press hails the Bolivian revolution as a vindication of the conduct of her own militaristic type of government. Bolivian oil and rubber are vital to Argentina in order that she may continue her present policy of neutrality, and it is therefore to her interest to support whatever regime is in power so long as it delivers the goods.

War's Week

◆Russians make long-hoped-for crossing of the old Polish border. Southern Poland declared "direct war zone" by German high command. One million Germans threatened with encirclement in the Dnieper bend area as Red troops take all but one of the vital rail centers. Questions of Polish sovereignty increased by Russian entrance into Polish soil. Pravda, Russian news agency, accuses Wendell Willkie of attempting to stir up strife, and complicate political argument already brewing. Drive continues in the west of Poland, and stretches southward toward Rumania.

◆Excitement grows in London as Germans increase invasion alarms. Arrival of General Eisenhower, invasion commander, expected.

◆Allied bombers raid Berlin, Stettin, Kiel naval and shipyard base, Tours and Bordeaux airfields. Invasion coast bombings continue on "non-stop" basis.

Allied campaign in Italy inches forward from San Vittore pivot where house-to-house and pillbox to pillbox fighting is in progress along a ten-mile front.

Japanese strengthen counterattacks after yielding Cape Gloucester airfield in New Guinea. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox reports continued "softening up" raids on the Marshall islands.

Virtual civil war reported in Yugoslavia as the partisan forces of General Tito clash openly with General Mikhailovich's Chetniks.

One hundred eight recent petroleum engineering graduates at the University of Texas are now in the armed services.