

Up From UO

By PEGGY OVERLAND

This isn't the account of a man whose life is remarkable for his deeds. Jack Belling, '34, is a good newspaperman but he has a far more exciting claim to public attention than anything he might have performed while "in the line of duty." Belling was the first prisoner of war taken by the Japanese government after Pearl Harbor.

The actual story goes something like this: He was two days out from Tokyo, on a Japanese ship, the Tatutu Maru, when Pearl Harbor crashed into print on every newspaper in the world. Back to Yokohama went Belling to be booked as an American spy and imprisoned by the Japanese prosecutor. After six months of solitary confinement, in which a barley and rice diet and third degree methods figured largely, Belling was returned to the United States late in August of 1942 on the diplomatic exchange ship, Gripsholm, with U. S. Ambassador Grew.

But the circumstances leading up to this "incident" were devious and show a peculiar Nipponese characteristic, for Jack Belling was the reporter who interviewed Yosuke Matsuoka, Japanese foreign minister, on his visit to the campus back in 1932.

Belling was active in campus affairs. He was associated editor of the Oregonian, news editor and a member of the editorial board of the Emerald, and a member of Sigma Delta Chi, men's professional journalistic fraternity. Matsuoka's visit to the campus of which he was a graduate in law, was of unusual importance that year. The speech which he gave was the only one he presented while in the United States after representing Japan at Geneva.

At that conference Matsuoka had notified the League of Japan's intention to withdraw, and his speech was for the purpose of explaining his country's action. It was a big day for the Emerald when the news of the speech was wired round the world.

Perhaps the contents of Bell-

inger's interview wouldn't be approved by him now, but it was well-written and some of his statements were prophetic. He quoted Matsuoka when he said, "Your nation will not be prepared to send its sons to the Far East to fight, and perhaps to lose their lives . . ." and the Emerald carried an editorial with the words: "Yosuke Matsuoka's visit will be remembered here in the years to come as a significant moment in the annals of this school. Future events may cast even greater importance upon it."

After his graduation in 1934 with a B.A. in journalism, Belling worked in the Salem bureau of the United Press and was also associated with the Salem Statesman. Later he went to Japan to teach English in Oajama Gakum college. He visited in the United States in 1939, and then took a job on the Japan Times-Advertiser.

Later, after his release from prison, Belling said it wasn't his stories which were carried in American newspapers, but the sensational headlines which were later added in the United States and Japanese papers that brought about his arrest. Whatever it was, the Japanese immediately confiscated his scrapbook of newspaper clippings, including the American stories with the screaming headlines which had infuriated the government.

During the first weeks of excommunicado internment the Japanese prosecutor ordered Belling dragged out two or three times a day in an attempt to obtain a forced "confession." It was at this time that he was placed on a rice and barley diet which resulted in his teeth showing signs of "rotting away." Despite the kicking, slapping and beatings, Belling refused to "confess" and was sentenced to 18 months to two years for espionage and "violating Japan's national defense act."

Emaciated and ill, Jack Belling didn't know until a few days before his departure that he was to be released and sent home on the repatriation ship, Gripsholm,

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ethical schemes a preliminary try-out before putting them to general use. Freshman politics were like political primaries, except that unsuccessful schemes were weeded out rather than unsuccessful candidates.

* * * *

In such a university as ours it is impossible for the freshmen to go away by themselves and set up their own government unassisted by more experienced upperclassmen. But there is nothing to stop them from thinking by themselves.

It is time that the taint permeating politics, and especially freshman politics, was removed. Internationally speaking, a nation used as the freshmen of this University have traditionally been used is said to be exploited. On this campus we call anyone so used a "tool." The freshman class has been a tool for too many years. It is time for it to become the powerful, self-directed political weapon it rightfully should be. —J. N.

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Pro and Con

Dear Editor:

Although our membership is small this term, we of Campbell co-op are still recognized as a men's living organization free of any other affiliation. However, there are some people on this campus who will not make themselves realize that we have equal rights as such.

This fact became very apparent last Saturday evening when five-eighths of our members got together and visited 18 women's houses during the Nickel Hop. No, it wasn't the girls that we danced with who didn't know that Campbell was still on the campus. In fact they were very glad to have us spend our money in their individual houses. We came home feeling proud of ourselves having met some very nice girls and having averaged over 13 tickets per member for our entire house.

The wind was taken out of our sails when this morning's Emerald announced that Company B, ASTU had won the title, King of Wolves, with an average of only 3.5 tickets per member. Of course we were glad to hear that the boys of Company B had made such a good turnout but the thing that stumped us was how any person in an organization such as A.W.S. could have made such an error in addition and division.

We don't like to believe that there was any manipulation of figures or withdrawal of tickets done by anyone when the purpose of the Nickel Hop is so sincere. It may be that the contest did not include civilian men, if so we wish the A.W.S. would have stated that it was for soldiers only.

Although we received honorable mention for out-doing the soldiers by four times, we want to know if the A.W.S. has been making mistakes so long that they cannot carry on a program without such inefficient practices as were apparent in the handling of the Nickel Hop. If such inefficiency is to continue we suggest that the A.W.S. either discontinue entirely or make up its mind to do a better job than it has been doing.

Yours sincerely

Boys of Campbell Co-op

Highest Buyer

(Continued from page one)

SAE house and John Straub hall to escort the five finalists for the title of "Bonds Away Girl" into McArthur court Saturday evening. The men should pick their representative by 5:30 Wednesday evening, according to Miss Fridiger.

Peter Howard, Campus

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outstanding sophomores in 1942, and again as one of three outstanding juniors for 1943. He was elected to Scabbard and Blade, military honorary in 1942, also serving as president of the student YMCA in 1942-43. He was a member of Sigma Delta Pi, honorary for upperclassmen in Spanish, and a member of the student discipline committee for 1943-44.

Reaction to Peter Howard's death was very strong on the campus. Orlando Hollis, acting president of the University, in speaking of his death said: "I am deeply grieved to hear of Peter Howard's death. I have known him for many years and watched with great satisfaction his development as a young man and as an outstanding student at the University."

Virgil D. Earl, dean of men, said: "I was shocked to hear of Peter Howard's death. He was a young man of exceptional ability who gave promise of being a leader among men."

Howard was engaged to Doris Lee Riley.

Dating as Usual?

During the first part of the war Great Britain was famous for its slogan "Business-As Usual." But as time went on, the English nation found that "business as usual" was becoming more and more difficult, more and more impractical. War and "business as usual" just didn't make for a winning combination, and the Britons found that old patterns had to be changed in order to fit the new conditions arising from the war.

And old patterns must be changed here too. That realization has come to some students here, to students knowing and respecting the old traditions and patterns of social life on the campus, but becoming increasingly aware of new conditions and the fact that these new conditions cannot but have some effect, temporary or permanent, on the old order of things. For this reason a dinner has been arranged for social chairmen of the various houses to meet with social leaders among the ASTU students Wednesday night. Under discussion will be the social problems of the campus to acquaint the civilians with the interests and wishes of the soldier students and to formulate a working plan to coordinate the interests of the civilians and soldiers.

But the plans and discussions will do no good without a corresponding change in attitude among the coeds in regard to the dating problem. "There just isn't time for this playing hard to get feeling that the girls have," one soldier said, and he wasn't far from wrong. Some of the ASTU men are here only for three month periods. Both the ASTU's and the air corps men have only about one hour each day free time, in which they quite often have other things to occupy their attention. But occasionally they have time to dance, to go out for coke daes and to have a good time. The coeds are busy too, with class work and campus war activities, but their time is more elastic and adjustable.

Under a program of dances such as the ISA Canteen, which would allow soldiers and coeds to become better acquainted and to have a good time together comes the answer to some of the problems. Cooperation will be needed from the coeds so that men who attend such dances stag would be provided with partners. The old pattern which prevented many girls from going to dances without escorts must therefore give way to conditions brought about by the war. The girls themselves in many cases are becoming bored with sitting around the house over weekends and would welcome a chance to go to dances where they could have a good time. It isn't a question of raising soldier morale; the morale among the coeds could stand a little jolt too.

M. Y.

Political Putty . . .

Members of the freshman class will meet Thursday night to organize themselves officially as the class of '47. Business of the evening will include the adoption of a constitution and the nomination of officers.

For the past several years the words "politics" and "politicians" have carried rather unpleasant connotations to students of this University. The first term was seldom mentioned alone—it was always preceded by the qualifying adjective "dirty." And to call a student a politician was to imply that he was engaged in a rather shady business for some devious purpose of his own. Politicians and politics had about the same social standing on the campus as bootleggers and their profession during prohibition days—they were necessary evils.

Once there was a time when politicians—not just campus politicians, but politicians generally—were not so regarded. They were statesmen, leaders, influential men, outstanding citizens. They were considered fine and worthy individuals. They were the founders and builders of the nation, and they exemplified the noble traits on which it was based. But time passed, and politics became associated in the public mind with graft, log-rolling, gravy-trains, and similar assorted species of corruption. This was true on the campus as well as throughout the nation.

And freshmen politics were especially dirty. There upperclassmen gave their unorthodox and sometimes not quite