

Pro and Con

The Emerald Editor:

I read with interest, which quickly turned to disgust, your editorial entitled "Not Quite, Mr. Wells". Although I do not agree, or expect any one else to do so, with all that Mr. Wells had to say, it seems to me that the author of your editorial tried to read into Mr. Wells' lecture some implications that were not there. This tendency to misinterpret material is serious at any time, but it is not nearly as serious as the mental attitude that prompted it in this case.

It seems that your author, like too many Americans, still retains a "1776" mental attitude toward England and all things English. This attitude is both stupid and costly. It is stupid in that it brings out American provincialism and narrow-mindedness; it is costly because of the detrimental effect that it can, and I am afraid does, have on our united war effort.

It was the British views expressed in Mr. Wells' lecture that alienated a large part of the audience and immediately caused them to say, "propaganda" and "British imperialism". This is a dangerous attitude, and one that we can ill afford at present.

Your truly,
Fred S. McGeoch
Co. A, ASTU 3920

(The Oregon State Barometer also received letters concerning the Carveth Wells lecture, evidently identical, held on that campus. A partial reprint is included below:)
Gentlemen:

We noticed that the Barometer of last Friday carried a short commentary neither praising nor criticizing the convocation address of Mr. Carveth Wells, eminent explorer. We feel that this speech, delivered in so expert a manner to a very impressionable audience, is deserving of careful scrutiny as to validity of fact and implication. We shall attempt to point out obvious fallacies and misleading statements made by Mr. Wells.

Mr. Wells stated that "in a race against time," the Japs were building a railroad to link China with Malaya and serve as a supply route. He failed to state that the only difficulty facing the Japs was that the Chinese controlled 1000 miles or more of the territory through which the railroad would have to go.

Wells also said that the best Jap soldiers have not been engaged in battle by our troops. According to Jap sources, their crack divisions are at present fighting on Cape Gloucester.

He stated that Japanese mothers and sweethearts, when bidding good-bye to their sons and lovers, pray that they may die in battle for their God. Facts prove this to be a fallacious idea. Before a Japanese soldier leaves for the front he is given many amulets and charms by his loved ones so that he may be safe on the battlefield and return home.

He went to great length to prove that England is not very concerned in Indian affairs of government stating that "contrary to popular belief, India is not a colony." According to the Army Service Forces Atlas and maps just issued India is considered a colony or among those nonself-governing members of the British Empire.

A viceroy, who is elected by the crown has supreme authority in India. Indian council members are appointed and removed by him and have no constitutional rights.

Wells dismissed the economic importance of India to Great Britain with a shrug. Before the war, India contributed 120 million American dollars per year in home charges. The British also enjoy a very excellent preferential tariff in their large trade with India. There are three hundred thousand English-

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Why Matrix Table? . . .

A week from tonight Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalism fraternity, will sponsor its annual Matrix Table, a formal banquet honoring outstanding women in journalism, letters, and the arts.

Many things are changing in these days of war. Many of the old ways must change, many of the old events must be put aside for a duration-long period. But some things must go on, because they cannot wait for idle days of peace. Among such things are the products of creative imagination. It is the creatively imaginative workers who are honored at Matrix Table.

Prominent women in the fields of creative work will, as usual, be guests. So, also as usual, will be the outstanding freshman woman and the outstanding sophomore woman in journalism at the University and the two girls most outstanding in journalism at Eugene and University high schools. This year for the first time, the guest list will include the names of all the junior and senior women in journalism, honoring them for their work.

Matrix Table is held because the members of Theta Sigma Phi believe in the importance of creative work and wish to honor those who produce it. This year's speaker, author Helen Hedrick of Medford, will point out the importance of creative work, especially of writing, in her speech on "The Present Challenge to American Writers."

Mrs. Hedrick's speech and the Matrix Table at which she will give her address are a sign that, although war may postpone or do away with many things, creative imagination and the creative worker will still be recognized as essential and honored for their worth and significance.

J. N.

Wells at OSC . . .

(The following comment on Carveth Wells was printed in the Oregon State Barometer, Tuesday, February 2. The Barometer's editorial followed his appearance there.)

Mr. Wells gave us an interesting and extraordinary lecture Wednesday night. It was extraordinary in the fact that he talked about four Asiatic countries in one hour, and in all that time said very little of real significance. His talk consisted mainly of half-truths and distorted opinions that anybody with a little information on the subject could easily debunk.

Let's just take India as an example: The few facts that Mr. Wells did get correct can be found in a pamphlet published by the British government in 1942 entitled, "Fifty Facts About India." The other things said about India can be attributed only to a vivid imagination. Mr. Wells said that the irrigated land in India was 22 times the area of the irrigated land in America. This is not true. The latest available figures on the subject show that India has only twice the irrigated land that we have. Mr. Wells said that India produces all of her own military supplies, and also has a fine machine tool industry. Again this is not the case. India does not produce some of the most important military supplies! She does not manufacture tanks, nor does she manufacture airplanes. The machine tools that are supposed to be produced in India, according to Mr. Wells, are only produced in Shangri-La, for India produces less than 5 per cent of her total need.

These are only two of the many erroneous statements that Mr. Wells would have us believe. His lecture was full of interesting stories, but when it came to giving us reliable facts—things that we could depend upon—Mr. Wells was terribly lacking. Logic alone would disprove many of his statements. Facts and figures are available to us that would immediately destroy the erroneous impression that many of us got last Wednesday evening. As one man said, Mr. Wells is an interesting speaker, but it would be exceedingly foolish to take him seriously.

GEORGE DEWEY

Women students out-number the men at the University of Texas this fall for the first time in history. The normal proportion is two men to each woman, but in this war year, registration of women is 3,291 as compared to 3,155 men.

at ease!



By CPL. WEN SMITH

Via the sour-grape vine this week came a story that made you realize the acute need for an ASTP chaplain. Your tests get too rough, or you get gipped for leaving that old banana-split in your stocking drawer; then you really feel the need of the kind man with the ever-ready punch.

But the story: The men down in the Italian section had a little quiz—an exameroo. In short, he threw the book at 'em. First Sgt. Dale found himself fresh out of what Time magazine euphemizes as "weeping slips," so the Italianos took their troubles to Dr. Quirinus Breen.

Pfcomplainer Sheldon Colen outlined the terrible hardships of this life. It was a gruesome, pathetic tale of academic persecution. "Wretched!" sympathized the kind Dr., reaching the height of commiseration. Translated into Gingo it meant "Tell it to the chaplain!" And the boys really wished they had one to go to. Punch another for Colen and colleagues.

Every night the winged seraphs of the Air Corps go singing past your window, and you sometimes get ideas. Maybe a pitcher of cold water would do the trick. One gang goes by yelling, "Give 'er the gun!" First thing you know there's another singing, "Lay that pistol down, Babe!" Nothing but a bunch of Indian givers.

You're sitting quietly in your room knitting an afghan when in

comes Pfc. George Noble with a custard pie which he threatens to throw at you unless you print his name. George claims to be the poet laureate of the Barracks who wrote the worthless poem which appeared here last week. Seems he is a former ghost writer for Mr. Jordan. His latest effort is "Elegy Written While Policing the Area," which he recites well. You mumble that even the garbage business is picking up. Then he throws the pie and leaves you sitting there among the remains of Custard's Last Stand. And the afghan is ruined.

* * *

Trying to hear the NY Symphony on Sunday, you get good and sore at the guys who think they have to use their electric razors then. You can't figure out why they shave with razors: they're trying to cut 'em off, not raise 'em . . . You promise to stop punning.

* * *

Campus seems vacant to you since the unexplained disappearance of the uninhibited citizen, Rodney. Where, oh, where has the monster gone?

* * *

Things are beginning to wear on your tattered nerves, such as that zombie-voice who announces on KORE . . . Then there are the professors who talk in your sleep . . . And another month to go . . .

Clips and Comment

By MARGUERITE WITTEWER

Personal Note: The writer of this column has learned something. We came to this campus with certain stereotyped ideas about many things, about education, college, men. We have learned that, "Mares eat oats and does eat oats, and little lambs eat ivy, kids'll eat ivy too, wouldn't you." . . . Okay, shoot if you must this old grey head, but spare that lovely song.

At Oregon State college the AST's are said to have a strange aboriginal language all their own. Traces of same have been heard through the campus scuttlebutt, as well as when the lads are marching to classes. It sounds like, "Hubba, hubba, hubba, hubba, hubba."

At Stanford university an honor system has been adopted for the army students. University professors will no longer proctor examination taken by the AST's if the soldiers agree not to give or receive aid, in examinations, classwork, reports, etc. All violations of the honor system will be turned over to the grievance committee of the Army Student Council. The defendant soldier will receive a hearing before judges nominated from his fellow students and may request a defense counsel . . . This is the army, Mr. ASTU. Now there's nothing left to worry you.

A towel from the Imperial hotel in Tokio will be auctioned off at the bond rally to be held at the University of California. The towel belonged to the ASUC general manager and was obtained by him in 1926 when the California Varsity

baseball team played in Japan. . . . Just left by the last tide.

A scientifically minded soldier at an unknown outpost in the South Pacific sent an aboriginal skull to the anthropology department at the University of Minnesota. Since the military censors deleted the soldier's location, the professors have no way of even knowing where the relic comes from. The mystery will remain unsolved until, if and when, the soldier returns to tell the anthropologists where he found it . . . Might be uncle Louie (Louie the rat, they called him); used to run rum in them there parts.

REX

FIRST TIMES TODAY!
SONJA HENIE
in
"WINTERTIME"
pus
LIONEL BARRYMORE
"DR. GILLESPIE'S
CRIMINAL CASE"

HEILIG

"HIYA SAILOR"
pus
"DRUMS OF
FU MANCHU"

Bond Premier Tonight, 8:45

MCDONALD

"TRUE TO LIFE"
with
MARY MARTIN
DICK POWELL
Plus
"YOUNG IDEAS"
RICHARD CARLSON
and SUSAN PETERS