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## The Art Of Oratory. . .

Among the traditions which surround the University of Oregon's commencement period, none has established itself more solidly or gained greater prestige throughout the years than the Failing-Beckman-Jewett oratorical contest for graduating seniors.

The prizes total \$300. Henry Failing, of Portland, and C. C. Beckman, of Jacksonville, were the donors in the original Failing-Beckman contest. In 1943 they were combined with the Jewett prizes, donated to the University by Mary Jewett in memory of her husband, the late W. H. Jewett. First prize is \$150, second, \$100, and third, \$50.

Throughout the history of America we have been fighting for the right to speak our minds. The orations submitted to this contest are likely to deal with a wide variety of subjects. Some of them will undoubtedly deal with social, political, or racial questions. A few, we hope, will be definitely radical in tone. A sharp, healthy opposition is one of the few things that a democracy, no matter how well run, cannot afford to dispense with.

The actual influence of oratory in public affairs has declined greatly, aided in part by the advent of radio. The day is past when the affairs of the country could be swayed, and history be made, by a single flowery speech on the floor of the Senate or House of Representatives. But the impending contest is not important because of the dying art which it nourishes. It is, rather, significant in that its existence is a living symbol of the health of free speech in America today, and a promise of its continuance for some time to come.—N.Y.

## Globally Speaking

By BILL SINNOTT

The recent meetings in Stockholm between Juhu Paaskivi and Mme. Alexandra Kollontay, the aged "glamour girl" of the October Revolution, may be the prelude to the immediate withdrawal of Finland from the war. King Gustaf of Sweden has advised the Finns that they must cast off their Axis tie, or face annihilation at the hands of the Red army.

Finland's present plight is one of the great tragedies of the war. The Finns have been Russophobes since 1809 when power politics detached them from Sweden and handed them over to the inefficient bureaucratic rule of the Tsars.

Until the reign of Alexander III, Finland was an autonomous grand duchy. Tsar Alexander desired the Russification of his polyglot empire in order to stamp out any democratic tendencies that might have filtered in from the west.

The Finnish Diet lost its power to legislate. Russian officials ousted Finns from government jobs, attempts were made to foist the Orthodox church upon the Lutheran Finns.

The Finns passively resisted every measure of Russification. They took advantage of the 1905 revolution to win back their autonomy. The country declared its independence from Russia in 1917 after the March revolution.

The Germans, under von der Goltz, aided Marshal Mannerheim in putting down the Red terror that ensued in the country after the Bolshevik revolution in October, 1917.

Russia recognized Finnish independence in 1920 by the Treaty of Riga. In the ensuing years Finland

became a model state. A cultural renaissance made Finnish music and architecture world-famous. Sibelius is one of the great composers. Soorinen has shown that modern architecture can be functional yet beautiful.

Finnish cooperatives were as highly developed as those of Sweden. The country evolved into a pure democracy where there were no poor or rich—where illiteracy had vanished. In America, we knew her as the only country that paid her debt to us.

In 1939 the Social Democratic party was in power. The sympathy of the world went out to the little country that had "invaded" Russia. Both England and France were ready in February, 1940, to send troops to the aid of the Finns. Only the refusal of Sweden and Norway to give them passage prevented this. One trembles to think of our position today if Russia had been forced actively into the war on the German side.

With the forcing of the Mannerheim line the Finns were compelled to sue for peace in March, 1940. Baron Mannerheim then said, "Finland has paid her debt to the West in full."

In June, 1941, Finland again

# Nuf Sed

By CHAS. POLITZ

The nearly 100 young women who, motivated by a desire to supplement academic classroom theory by practicality, crammed every corner of 207 Chapman hall Thursday night, were greatly disappointed to discover that the French movie whose linguistic aspects they had come to study had as its featured player—one Jean Gabin.

Dejection and unhappiness was reflected in every face. "If we had known we never would have come," one group of seven lavender sweaters chorused.

"And to think I left Demosthenes for this," the slightly tall girl with one brown and one amber eyebrow, lamented.

A Blow

In short it was a telling blow to the intellectual element in all of them. They had sacrificed the thrill of study table to devote an evening to the study of French as it is spoken by the natives. They had come prepared to enjoy the stimulation of peasant chatter as the common people of the "land of 50 million" bent over hoes in the fields, waiting for the angelus to ring and Millet to finish the painting.

And what did they get?—a flaming tale of love and earthy passion. Positively aesthetically disgusting, they all agreed.

Small wonder that a great deep-lunged sigh of dissatisfaction was emitted from the nearly 100 pair of Hunting Red lips as Monsieur Gabin's name was flashed on the screen.

It Took Stamina

But the girls were broad-minded and condescended to sit the movie out. It was very tolerant of them, for events soon proved they would be forced to suffer almost constantly. Torture No. 1: M. Gabin was featured in almost every scene. He never left the screen even for a glass of water. (This was due, perhaps, to the fact that early in

the first reel he had a glass of milk.)

And looking at M. Gabin's face was more than even the untainted eyes of girls of freshman standing should be subjected. It was good looking in its pugilistic ruggedness. The one bright and one sad eye were dangerous. The nose that wandered unrestrained over the rest of the fact could be construed as capable of provoking sensuous stimulation. Not to mention the lips.

It was tough on the girls, but they stayed.

Love-Hero Revolting

The love scenes were even harder to bear. . . They were tender, sensitive, and replete with unlocked kisses. In the midst of the most moving scene in the rear of the florist's shop during which M. Gabin demonstrated he knew his way around one girl could bear up no longer. She let out a high-pitched scream of horror.

But the worst was yet to come: the melodramatic murder of the rival in his checkered double-breasted topcoat, the delirium of the broken-hearted girl, and to top it all off, the suicide of the melancholy, disillusioned hero—M. Gabin himself. And the girls weathered every clench and kiss and sigh of passion. It is with sheer admiration that our heart goes out to those brave young women who tolerantly and courageously remained to suffer through an exhibition of actions and incidents so diametrically opposed to the ideals and standards they hold dear.

## Miss Mars

By MARY JO GEISER

You say it can't be done? It can be done by American girls and women. They can aid in winning the war. What could be nicer than being an Air Wac?

Very recently it was made possible for young women to specifically join the AAF as such. You can be an air lane inspector, bombshell mechanic, parachute rigger, or Link trainer instructor.

entered into war against her hereditary foe. The Russians were driven back across the boundaries of pre-1940 Finland. For the past two years there has been a stalemate on the Finno-Russian front.

The Finnish people are tired of the war. They wish for allied victory. Two great obstacles prevent an immediate peace: What shall be done with the German army of Colonel-General Dietl that occupies the northern part of the country, and how can Finnish economy function when she is forced to become independent of the German imports which hitherto have been her economic mainstay?

Russia is thought to have offered the 1940 peace terms with the added proviso that the Red army may drive the Germans out of the country if the Finns are unable to intern them.

It has been suggested that the ideal solution would be for American troops to occupy the country. The Finns would then be sure of their independence after the war. It is their present fear of Russian rule that keeps them waging a war that is already lost.

Flying fortresses returning home are guided in by Air Wacs on duty at air bases throughout the world. Air Wacs operate mobile radio units important in the training of cadet pilots. Highly technical laboratory work as dental technician at an air field is one of the jobs available. Lastly, photography has now been turned over to the Army Air Force Wacs.

Here is what a couple of American generals think of the work assigned to the Air Wacs: "I have been highly gratified with the record of the members of the Women's Army Corps, now on duty with the AAF. Not only have members of the Women's Army Corps made an enviable record at Air Force installations in this country, but splendid reports have come to me on the work of the corps with the Eighth Air Force in the European theater of operations," was the first remark by Commanding General of the AAF, General H. H. Arnold.

Lieutenant General B. K. Yount, commanding general, AAFTC, "After seeing at first hand how British women served during the 1940 blitz, I was a strong advocate of a women's corps in our army, and the Wacs have more than fulfilled my expectations. They have maintained highest standards in performance of their duties and in their conduct as soldiers and individuals. Air Wacs are vital to proper functioning of the training command, and we need many thousands more."

When a general calls, it seems rather imperative to answer, does it not?

## Service Pin Awarded Miss Rogndahl at Party

Marie Rogndahl was given a "bon voyage" party in the form of a gift shower in the music building lounge Thursday afternoon. The shower was sponsored by Phi Beta, music honorary, of which Miss Rogndahl has been president this year.

Highlight of the afternoon was the first presentation of the pearl pin service award to Miss Rogndahl by the Phi Beta patroness group. This award, sponsored by Mrs. James Radman, is to be made annually.

Chinese cooking has been elevated to the dignity of a place in the Stanford university curriculum. Members of classes taking the courses under Miss Ling-fu-Yang, Chinese food researchist, turn out such delicacies as chrysanthemum pie, tiger skin eggs, and Buddhist rice soup. Food economics are also taught so that 10 people can be fed on Chinese delicacies for 50 cents.

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