

OREGON EMERALD

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Entered as second class matter at the postoffice, Eugene, Oregon.

'Puddles' and the 'War'

An editorial in Thursday's Barometer appeals to the Beavers to pull in their necks Saturday night after the game and waddle quietly home, avoiding any display of fisticuffs with the rough and tough Webfoots. The editorial lauds the "clean competitive spirit which characterizes college football" and deplores occasions when "the mob has taken command over all reason to plunge into an outrageous struggle . . ."

"Is there any method by which this struggle can help establish Oregon State as a center for the advancement and development of American culture? Who wins such fights? Would Oregon State college, by virtue of superior numbers, be the victor? Or can any individual be declared the winner, or any student body point with pride to triumph in such random activity as an inter-school fist fight," the essay asks.

The whole thing leaves us cold.

Does Oregon State suppose that abducting "Puddles," the beloved Webfoot mascot, contributes to the advancement of culture on the Aggie campus? Do our friends on the Barometer staff feel that their journalistic crowing over Puddles' presence on their campus think their attitude is the height of enlightened intellectualism? After printing the threats to poor Puddles' nervous stability, the Barometer has the naivete to suggest there be no "general display of boxing and wrestling ability after two hours of good football."

The Emerald certainly takes a somewhat disdainful view of instigating any riots among the contented cowhands of Oregon State. We think they should not be given the satisfaction of running any Webfoots out of town. We hope the University of Oregon visitors show enough good sense to refrain from damaging property. But after the Puddles kidnapping we think the Staters should be a little wary of just how they treat our angry Oregon men.

Shame, Shame on You

Friday's Emerald ran a letter to the editor signed "Anne Brady." The letter, in no uncertain terms, criticized certain professors who treat women students in an uncomplimentary manner. Since it is the Emerald's policy to print signed letters of general interest to the campus, there was no question about the letter's origin when it was sent to press.

Now it turns out that the real Anne Brady, sophomore in journalism, did not write the letter or sign it. If Miss Brady were not an unusually reasonable and understanding woman, the Emerald might have found itself threatened by a suit. It seems that there is some law against publication of defamatory material without the consent of the author.

We have the greatest contempt for the type of individual who will disguise his complaints, legitimate or not, by the fraudulent use of an unknowing person's name. A character of this caliber has no place in a University. The Emerald is ashamed to have had even an innocent part in such a display of chicken-livered weakness. To Anne Brady, our sincere apologies.

The letters to the editor column is one of our widely read features, but if this sort of misuse of the privilege of the students to express their own opinions continues, the column will be dropped.

Common sense is not so common.—Voltaire.

The best prophet of the future is the past.—Byron.

Toward Better Understanding...

Professor Le Sage Tells Experiences With Post-War Japanese Thought

By ONE WORLD CLUB

During the war I served in various places in the Pacific as interrogator of Japanese prisoners of war. Later, in Japan, my contacts with Japanese were social as well as in my capacity as a member of the occupying forces. I had, therefore, ample opportunity to talk with all sorts of Japanese of every rank and station in life.

While certain ideas lost some of their strangeness through proximity, other aspects of Japanese psychology appeared increasingly remote. Consider, for example, the role of the individual. It seemed inconceivable that a Japanese could be devoid of opinions on sociological or political questions. Some of the questions I put to them had never been previously considered at all. The attitude towards democracy illustrates this. Last January the library of the Imperial university of Tokyo featured in their "browsing room" books on democracy. Apparently people were expected to read up on the subject in view of its topical nature. In the matter of vote, especially suffrage for women, the Japanese attitude on the whole seems marked by good will, but rather an eagerness to do what they were told more than a burning need to express an individual opinion. Some were even hostile. One Japanese lady exclaimed that what they needed was rice not votes! A highly educated gentleman insisted it was unwise to treat Japanese women as if they had a western background. According to him, they were not at all prepared to vote intelligently. The shortsightedness of such views may be annoying, but they indicate how little prepared the Japanese are to think as individuals in political matters. Individual thinking implies a responsibility that they seem unwilling to face. Previously they had been asked merely to obey. That was much simpler. Japanese submissiveness and western self-reliance, self-assurance are worlds apart.

The whole system of social ethics, product of history and economics, seems diametrically opposed to ours. It is hard for the Westerner to consider blind obedience as the chief virtue. And yet in discussing the matter of war crimes with some university grad-

uates, I astonished them by suggesting that a person might be justified in disobeying an order which violated his own individual sense of right or wrong. The idea seemed genuinely novel. To submit grimly and uncritically to a bad situation is a concept of virtue born quite naturally of the sociological history of Japan. One might almost make up the maxim "Whatever is difficult is good." It serves as a key to Japanese psychology and has interesting implications in Japanese esthetics, in the Japanese language, etc. It was certainly evident in their war psychology. Time and time again Japanese boasted that Japan was a poor country. The idea of puny Japan challenging giant countries to mortal combat seemed quite intoxicating. Great achievement, overcoming great obstacles, excites Japanese praise. All the Japanese with whom I discussed the atom bomb praised the invention rather than deplored the destruction of the cities. The latter they dismissed philosophically, saying, "Shigata ga nai." (It can't be helped.)

The deep admiration of the Japanese for us, for having won the war plus their philosophic resignation towards their defeat may help us understand their attitude toward the occupation. After all, their adjustment is merely one of taking orders from someone else. But developing a democratic nation of thinking individuals will be a long arduous task. It is a task which will call for our greatest understanding. To graft occidental standards and democratic ways on a culture whose roots are deep in another soil is a delicate operation. How successful, how harmonious a combination can be accomplished remains to be seen. There are those who feel it is quite impossible, that the only solution for Japan is either a complete departure from her culture in favor of occidental imitation, or complete isolation whereby Japan would be merely a quaint island for tourists. It is indeed a dilemma, for both these extremes are impossible to achieve, even if they were desirable. My personal hope is that we find it unnecessary to meddle with Japan's culture except where it may have potentially dangerous features.

Banter

By LEJEUNE GRIFFITH

Morals and pin-ups — We note with some amusement that John Bull is still in there pitching to insure that the war was not fought in vain. Under the heading of "improvements in the way of life of the soldier," British military authorities at the Aldershot, Hampshire, army depot have banned pin-up girls in officers' and non-commissioned officers' quarters. Authori-

ties said they are attempting to protect the morals of many youths training there.

"Oh, come now" department — The Tuesday, November 5 Emerald contains an advertisement which hails "Wolf Gal" nail polish and lipstick as "the greatest news event since the atom bomb."

Statistics and logic — According to Sam's "fiction and fact" on the ABC "Breakfast Club," half of all the married people in the United States are men. According to the U. S. Bureau of the Census in the 1946 World Almanac (Page 487),

of the 1944 population over 14 years of age, there are 29,690,000 married males and 32,850,000 married females. These numbers exclude widowed and divorced. That would leave us with the disturbing fact that there are over 3 million more married women than men. Maybe only the women will admit being married.

"Excuse it, please, we didn't understand." — Representative John E. Rankin (D., Miss.) claims that he did not snatch Dr. Harlow Shapley's personal documents from the Harvard professor's hands during a committee hearing on un-American activities as charged. He merely took hold of the papers and they were torn because Dr. Shapley wouldn't let go.

Twenty-five years ago via the New York Times — At an international conference, Japan was insisting upon changing the Hughes formula for the composition of future battle fleets of the United States, Great Britain, and Japan. The A. F. C. endorsed as a "magnificent proposal" the American plan for reduction and limitation of naval armament, and Japan voiced good will to China and avowed an "open door policy." An army wife returned from Germany with the observation that American soldiers in Germany had a soft snap and balked at coming back to the States. A local department store was offering ankle-length pantelettes with shirred cuffs at only \$2.95, and ladies' headbands, the hazard of the raised eyebrow, were the rage. A "modern miracle" as "marvelous even as Burbank's wonderwork with fruits, vegetables and flowers, or the preservation of meats and milk was claimed by Kraft when their new cheese loaf hit the market.

Longshoreman's Lingo — (From a compilation by John A. Knoetgen) Center-fielder—someone who wants to get in on the racket but is afraid to take the risk; flame-thrower—lady-killer, boastful Romeo; wren in the garden—tale-bearers in the gang.

the laundry by Larry Lau

Well, whaddaya know! The ed slips down to ye olde Side for the big cuppa Joe so methinks I'll sneak in another bundle of laundry. The repercussions from the one yesterday are still causing shock waves all over the campus. One gorgeous little dark haired gal did three flips and a half-gainer at the breakfast table when she spotted her name, but still, there's something gay about the whole business. The profs have been mumbling nervously, inquiring of their students whether they'll be there for class this morning. Of course, all bobbed their heads and lied that sweet lie, "yes."

The team that will be fired up en route will probably be lit up coming back. Fraternity men are digging the brass knuckles out of the bowels of their chapter rooms, just in case the Beavers don't take their licking graciously and the T.G.I.W. crowd marvels at the steadiness of their newest pledges, Lulu Preston and Bill Hanna. Speaking of corn valley, we almost lost one of the campus bright lights over there recently.

Perry Holloman's OSC true love wanted to quit school and go to work so they could pay a non-social call on the minister (legalize my name, la de da). Pi Phi Peggy Fennel may be an "unknown sweetheart," but she's certainly not unappreciated; **Marsh Glos**, who she's knitting socks for, is pretty well sold (oh I am a weaver and I work at my trade). The disappearance of the phonograph at the Alpha Xi house has forced **Delores Becker** and **DU Lou Wright** to spend more and more time out on the terrace (some guys got it tuff!).

Phi Anne McGeorge and **KS pledge Vic Risley** seem to have one of those quiet, comfortable arrangements on tap. In the "Nobody fooled nobody" dept., we have the story of **Jack Daly**, who shoved off for Seattle and a sly date with an unnamed Theta. His girl, **Sue Mercer**, in the meantime had a sly date with a much pleased **Gabby Martinson** (just how sly can we be?). **K-Sig pledge Jim Snyder**, risking health and comfort in a hand-held-

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