

OREGON *Daily* EMERALD

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'Puddles' Dried Up

"Puddles", the campus humor magazine proposed by three students, turned out to be stillborn. The educational activities board yesterday discussed the academic and artistic values of such a publication and decided that, although an outlet for student talent is needed, a humor magazine is not the ideal solution.

The board, of course, cannot interfere if the students are determined to publish a humor magazine off the campus, backed by their own funds. However, the University will not underwrite a publication of this sort. The reasons given are good:

1. A long range view indicates that a humor magazine would not be successful over a long period of time in a town of this size. It would be better not to launch one, than to have one flop later.
2. Advertising is available now but is likely to drop as prices fall. A monthly magazine dependent upon advertising would tend to draw needed advertising from the Emerald.
3. Present publications can be utilized as an outlet for student creative talent.
4. Humor magazines have proven successful on large campuses where student living is not as centralized as it is here.

Although turning thumbs down on a publication designed to sell strictly on its humorous content, the board acknowledged the present lack of recognition for creative literary work by students. It was understood that due to the shortage of newsprint and typesetters the Emerald was unable to publish the usual amount of contributed material such as critical essays, short stories, verse, satire, and columns dealing with music, art, and the theater.

The board expressed its emphatic approval of publication of student-written material of literary merit in the Emerald as soon as more paper and printers become available. Dean Kratt of the music school proposed that the Emerald publish a regular supplement expressly designed as an outlet for "feature" material of this sort.

The Emerald heartily concurs. We have long desired to make the best student creative work available to the public, but this has been prevented by circumstances beyond our control. We know that students are interested in material of that sort, including humorous contributions. When paper does become available, we shall try to provide the necessary outlet for which "Puddles" was intended.

Thursday the new parking lot at 14th and University sported freshly lettered signs, "Student Parking Only," and "Faculty Parking Only." One wonders where the enlisted men will park.

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Culture on the Coast

At the risk of giving free publicity to a more or less worthy cause, there is one article in the new Pacific Spectator (Stanford University Press—\$3.50 a year) that may be commended to Eugene and University readers. See "The Sick American Novel" by Sophus Keith Winther, University of Washington. Those who have read Mr. Winther's latest novel, "Beyond the Garden Gate," Macmillan, New York, 1947, will be forced to agree.

The periodical is a new voice in Pacific Coast culture and its list of authors indicates a good start. Such men as Cal's Max Radin, Louis B. Wright, and Stanford's Hugh Skilling, are heavyweights that deserve to be heard. It will be interesting to hear from Bernard DeVoto in the next issue, he of the "Easy Chair" who so sharply took the West to task in the last issue of Harpers.

Similar in some respects to the Yale Review, the new publication can fill a vital need here on the coast, if Westerners read it. If it ends up in a few libraries, class magazine stands and old gentlemen's clubs, it will only fill part of the need. A good many Easterners dismiss the West lightly as the land of the bluff, hearty laugh, the Idaho potato and the technicolor blonde. They may be right.

The West's contribution to American letters has been too little and too late. Georgia and Alabama, whose public schools are far behind those of Oregon and Washington, have produced more novelists, more playwrights, and more poets. California still has a long way to go before she can compete with New England as the nation's cultural capitol.

By way of a start, let our professors and students get their manuscripts in shape. Mail service between Eugene and Palo Alto is speedy and the only way to get recognition in the highly competitive field of letters is to earn it.

True scholarship consists in knowing not what things exist, but what they mean; it is not memory but judgment.—James Russell Lowell.

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