

# OREGON EMERALD

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## the book of lau

**By LARRY LAU**  
This WSSF business is quite a drive . . . drove me right out of the Side yesterday. With coffee in the 10c bracket, the foreign students will have to limp along as best they can, at least until I get my house bill paid . . . Speaking of foreign students, I met a bunch of them in the islands during the war . . . they were shooting at me . . .

Hen Hall is in a big turmoil. Seems that the-powers-that-be decided the dance they held was a little on the "rough" side. The hall's watchdog, Mrs. Stokes, is going quietly out of her mind, and the gals all think they're being pushed around . . . ho hum, never a dull moment . . .

Price's reporting class is bracing itself for the unofficial bar exam they'll take Monday morning . . . heard a Comp teacher rather sadly admit that the new text they were so proud of leaves much to be desired . . . too bad! . . . Sign of the Times: During the Frosh election, a young heifer named Lane had signs made saying, "You were born Independent" . . . and you'll die Independent" . . . maybe she's got something there . . .

UO's perennial malcontent, Herb Penny, who quit the Emerald some time ago because he was having "financial difficulties," is busy as a bee, with a petition to have the editor ousted . . . the long hand of subsidy, no doubt . . . Every Frosh on the campus seems to be hard at work with Abe Lincoln. I'll bet many will be surprised to learn that ole "Honest Abe" was a verra canny politician, addicted to "pork-barreling," and actually had no real gripe with slavery, if it could have been limited to the old "Cotton South" . . .

Somebody told my gal that one of my columns sounded like True Confessions . . . maybe you think I didn't hear about that! . . . The sun is out again, but I'm darned if I'll go off on another spring tack . . . last time that happened, it rained for two days and nights . . . Just learned today that the Campbell club boys initiate, rush, wear and plant pins, and do all sorts of things the big boys do . . . how nice.

Andrew Fish threw an entirely different type of hour exam last week, and the class average fell 30 points . . . sounds like they were in a rut. Dr. Dan Clark's homespun rendition of "Me Und Gott," a poem

## Telling the Editor

**ABOUT "THE BLANK STARE"**  
Editor's note: The following excerpts are printed from a signed letter received in the office. The writer's name is withheld at his own request.

A reply to Mr. Bombarde: . . . In your first paragraph you let it be known that you were "here on the campus" in 1942. Perhaps later you were an officer in the army or navy during your war years . . .

Now to tell the truth there are plenty of veterans (in the better sense of the word, see Webster) back who know what the score is. Nobody is "able to put anything over on them." Really, "they've been around . . ."

Many of these veterans have deep convictions; cinched opinions; and workable schemes for the very subjects you seem so anxious about. But long experience (Webster) in war, travel and discipline has taught most Joes when to speak, or vice versa, for talking is but an escape valve unless action is connected with it. Then it becomes a dispensable prelude. Most Joes are going to act sans via the escape valve route. Most Joes hate noise . . .

The only sound point you made . . . the shallowness of the average American student. And they are no different than G. I. Joe was before he went away. If you have ever tried to explain military tactics or a piece of military equip-

which poked fun at the German Emperor around the turn of the century, was riotous . . . sometimes genuine humor will pop up where you least expect it . . . The news that "Lightning Jake" Leicht has reconsidered, and will play for Oregon next fall has warmed many a heart . . . especially Jim Aikens!

ment to the one who was not in service, then it was that you were TRULY met with a blank stare . . . or were, so badly out-talked you hadn't the stomach to stay and listen.

Things like the recent trouble in Georgia, etc., do not gripe Joe's guts as "an American." He has risen above that. He knows the American crust is far too thick to yield to this situation. Joe has learned expediency. Joe is griped as a HUMAN BEING who has COMMON SENSE and DECENCY, which, you have all but said yourself, is too much to expect of "our anemic world," much less the average American.

If you will look again, and more closely, at those "blank stares" of ex-GIs, you will see a supreme example of self control, for beneath that outward expression you will see the most beautifully camouflaged sneer of your lifetime. He doesn't need to talk; he's going to DO.

## Emerald's Book List

Somebody's always compiling book lists. There are five-foot shelves, through which the diligent citizen can become an educated man if only he will devote fifteen minutes a day to their contents. There are a "Hundred Great Books" used in colleges. St. Johns has a list. President Robert M. Hutchins at the University of Chicago has one. The University library has distributed several lists of "great books."

We have perused many of these lists. Customarily we get down to the end and find we have read almost none of the "great books." We haven't read "Principia Mathematica." We haven't read Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," although we might like to some rainy day.

Through high school and into college, students have been exposed to "literature" classes, where they were told to read "Pilgrim's Progress," a musty old tome written by a frustrated zealot. It's greatest virtue is that it is insufferably dull.

All this is not as it should be. The student who has read "P's P." in a literature class, will not be inspired to go on and read more. If he had to base his idea of "literature" on this volume of boredom, he would never read again.

What is the objection to reading readable books? Wouldn't it be much sounder education if the student in his "literature" class were encouraged to read "interesting books," books that would encourage him to read more? Perhaps, after he had been led from book to book, he might eventually on his own hook get around to "Pilgrim's Progress" or Carlyle's essays.

There have been a lot of good books written in the last three thousand years. Lots of 'em we haven't read, largely because we haven't lived long enough or because we are not yet sufficiently mature to appreciate them. Those that are above us we may grow into. But we'll never appreciate Kant if we have it shoved down our throat when we are still in the Tom Sawyer stage.

Following is a random list of good books the Emerald recommends to the student who would like to learn to enjoy reading. These books, the Emerald feels, will inspire the reader to read more, to grow.

"Farewell to Arms," "Arrowsmith," "American Tragedy," "Treasure Island," "Green Mansions," "Sherlock Holmes," "Parnassus on Wheels," "Forsyte Saga," "Tales of Poe," "War and Peace," "Les Miserables," "U. S. A.," "Don Quixote," "Late George Apley," "Look Homeward Angel," "Decameron," "Crime and Punishment," "Red Badge of Courage," "Moll Flanders," "The Prince," "Of Human Bondage," "Plays by Kaufman and Hart," "Pepy's Diary," "Candide," "Native Son," "Brave New World," "Oliver Twist," "Gulliver's Travels," "Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn," "Alice in Wonderland."

Some of the above books are high school level, some are read by the Senior Six. But the Emerald puts them all up as darn good books.

As a matter of editorial conversation, the Emerald would be interested in additions to or deletions from this list.

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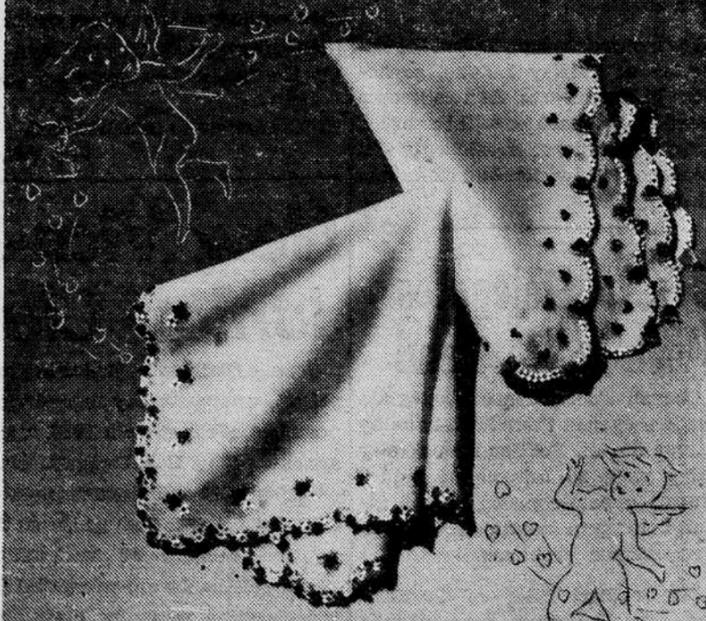
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