

# OREGON EMERALD

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## Guest Editorial Restrict Immigration?

(Editor's note: Today the campus honors foreign-born students with the second annual International Festival. . . . In Salem, the Oregon house of representatives is considering a joint memorial directed to the national congress urging that body to restrict immigration. We present this editorial, written by Flora Furrow, senior in journalism, as our statement against the memorial.)

An Oregon house of representatives joint memorial directed to the National congress in Washington and now in the Oregon house committee on state and federal affairs reads as follows:

"We . . . of . . . Oregon . . . respectfully represent that Whereas there appears . . . agitation to liberalize our present immigration laws to the end that displaced persons from Europe may be allowed entry into this country . . . and Whereas the economic conditions in this country are now, and for a considerable time will be, unsettled because of the disruption of industrial agricultural production . . . and . . . that the present as well as the ultimate welfare of our country will best be served by maintaining the restrictions on immigration . . . the Congress of the United States be . . . memorialized . . . to defeat any act or resolution . . . to increase the quotas of aliens allowed to enter this country.

This newspaper questions the validity of these assumptions. It is true that economic conditions have been unsettled by reconversion and strikes. However, 58 million persons—an all-time high—are now employed in the United States. A glance at help-wanted columns is more revealing. In the New York Times of January 22, as many as 32 columns were devoted to help-wanted items. In the Portland Oregonian, four columns advertise for help. The demand for labor has never been greater. Income, as well, is at its highest in the United States with a record of \$164,000,000,000 for 1946, according to a department of commerce report January 30.

Will "the ultimate welfare of our country . . . be best served by maintaining the restrictions on immigration?" may now be asked. "Not so," says Norman Angell in his book, *You and the Refugee*. He shows that successive waves of English, Irish, German, Scandinavian, and Italian immigrants reached a high point in the United States just before World War I. "Were those years . . . when America received as many as a million new immigrants each year, years of unemployment, or of low wages compared with what ruled in the rest of the world? There was practically no unemployment in those years, and the wages paid at that time of tremendous immigration were the highest paid anywhere in the world." Present immigration restrictions were in effect during the depression of the 1930's when United States' unemployment and wages were dangerously low.

The memorial is trying to say that immigration should be restricted because of a fear that Americans will lose their jobs to "foreigners." This economic fallacy is based on the idea that the number of jobs is fixed. Actually, the number of jobs is created by the industry and imagination of individuals—by ideas and action. That displaced persons in Europe are potentially good citizens with ideas may easily be shown.

The majority of them are Poles, Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who refuse to go home because they fear the terrorist political regimes in their own countries. After examining recent Polish election tactics, Americans can hardly say their stand is not well founded. Yugoslavs and Rumanians refuse repatriation for the same reason.

Many of these persons are of the professional classes—professors, lawyers, doctors, and business people, jealous of their freedom and individualism—fearful of persecution and collectivism:

Earl G. Harrison, the United States representative on the inter-governmental committee on refugees urged, on January 30, that America ease her immigration laws, saying, "This country can easily absorb 100,000 European displaced persons a year for four years."

In view of the evidence, this paper disagrees with Oregon house joint memorial number 4. America, from both the humanitarian and economic standpoints, can well benefit by admitting Europe's displaced persons.

## Toward One World...

# Paris at Peace..Fields of Grain, Normandy's Landing Beaches

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of an article by Dr. Carl Johnson, assistant professor of Romance Languages. Dr. Johnson's article is about his visit last summer as a guest of the French government.)

### By ONE WORLD CLUB

The next morning after a breakfast of hard dark bread and ersatz coffee sweetened with saccharin, we began to plan our activities. First again, of course, we had to see Paris. By day Paris was much like her old self. There is little damage from bombing. None of the great monuments had suffered except that they had not been cleaned for several years and were wearing a black coat of smoke and soot.

Automobile traffic had diminished. Bicycles were more numerous. People strolled the broad sidewalks, loitered in front of window displays of books, jewelry, perfumes, and leather goods.

There was less gaiety but plenty of life and activity. We felt encouraged. By evening, I had arranged a three-day motor trip through the Loire valley and an eight-day excursion through Normandy and Brittany following the roads that had figured most in the invasion and liberation of France.

### To the Provinces

I went in large sight-seeing buses that carried thirty passengers. The wheat along the Loire was in shocks and looked unusually good. The bridges which had been of fine heavy stone were all destroyed. Some were still lying in the bed of the stream.

Reconstruction had started on the most important ones. Between Orleans and Tours we saw no less than 50 useless bridges. The castles were not greatly damaged. Most of them—Chambord, Beugency, Blois, Amboise, had served as fortresses for the Free French and the Marquisards during the war.

The Nazis turned some artillery fire on them, but no irreparable damage was done. They are quickly being brought back into condition as tourist attractions. Each one is provided with excellent guides and each has its own treasures of art, tapestries, furniture, and historical materials.

I had a diary with me, written by the poet Longfellow in 1826 when he made a similar trip (except that he walked all the way), and I was amazed at the accuracy of his description.

### And the Hedgerows

The Normandy-Brittany trip was more impressive but hard to describe. I went by train to Rouen and by bus to Caen, Bayeau, Cherbourg, Avranches, St. Malo, Brest, Lorient, Lissieux, Falaise. All these are well known names now.

They all resembled Le Havre. The heart was gone from each of them. Each had its own history of bitter fighting, a history known to everyone. We visited four of the original sixteen invasion beaches. I had always pictured them as long stretches of sand like Agate Beach. But they were all small, curved inlets, with fine hard sand which would carry tanks and trucks at low tide.

The Dieppe invasion failed largely because the sand there is coarse and soft. The heavy guns and supply trucks became stalled and made excellent targets for the Nazis. There were many evidences of the invasion at each beach—great arms made of sunken boats filled with stone and serving as breakwaters reached out into the English Channel. Landing craft of every type lay on the sand.

### Historic Spots

Only two monuments have been set up thus far—one at Arromanch-

es — les — Bains where Winston Churchill came ashore in August 1944, and the other at Courseulles where General de Gaulle landed on June 14, 1944. Sprinkle the area with cemeteries and you will have a general idea of the sights.

As in the Loire valley, the crops looked wonderful. All but two of my fellow-travelers were French. They were thrilled at the sight of cows, sheep, apples, and all the food products of Normandy. They laughed and said, "Les Normands su moins ne creveront pas de faim—" at least the Normans will not die of hunger.

We stopped to see the Bayeux tapestry also which was made by the wife of William the Conqueror and which tells in embroidery the history of the conquest of England. We spent a day also at Mont St. Michel. The great old cathedral which was a shrine in the middle ages was literally packed. Our guide said that since the war, the visitors at Mont St. Michel number about 5,000 per day.

### Back to Paris

Back in Paris I looked up former friends, attended lectures, browsed in book shops, went to the opera, the movies, several museums, the Lux-

## Telling the Editor

### ABOUT THE BOOK OF LAU

To the Editor:  
Wouldn't it PLEASE be possible to stop that column of drivel known as "Book of Lau"? I hate to think of the rating given our Emerald by the high school journalism classes who receive it under the exchange system. A publication and the source of a publication are evaluated by the contents of that same publication.

The column is not indicative of college life, nor its level of thinking, nor its literary ability. To say the least, the column is a reflection upon the Emerald, the School of Journalism, and the Faculty as a whole, for sanctioning publication of such rankling trash.

Robert B. Merrifield  
(Reader Merrifield's point is well taken. This is a sample of several such letters. The Emerald hopes to make further such communications unnecessary. The faculty, however, is blameless in this connection and we hope to keep it so.—Ed.)

embourg and Tuileries gardens, and searched the shops for souvenirs for my family. I had good luck in every respect. But the principal theaters were closed. I had wanted to see some plays at the Comedie Francaise—Molliere, Racine.

As for the changes in France and in the people, I could speak indefinitely.

But if you will bear in mind that I am speaking only from my own observations and perhaps not always with perfect accuracy, I can sum them up briefly. France lacks especially, coal for her industries, clothing and food. The needs are greatest in that order.

She was wealthy. She is, for the time being very poor. Her transportation facilities are disrupted. Her factories are working only part-time for want of power. She relied on luxuries for much of her wealth—perfumes, wines, silks, foods—and it takes time to replenish luxury supplies.

Miss Elizabeth De Cou observed that the French are tired. That is true, I believe, but a little bit vague. They are also underfed, underpaid, poorly clothed, and uncertain as to the future. After the first war ended in 1918 they built up the devastated cities quickly, only to have a worse storm pass through in 1940 and yet even a worse one in 1944.

Will it happen again? Opinion among the French was divided. Some, (a very few) said, "Mais non," others said, "Mais oui." I also came away in doubt.

Carl L. Johnson

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1414 Kincaid St.  
UNIVERSITY CLASS—9:30-10:30 A. M.  
Leader: Marvin A. Tims. Subject: "What Men Live By"  
CHURCH SERVICES 11 A. M.  
Central Presbyterian Church Fairmont Presbyterian  
10th & Pearl Sts. E. 15th & Villard  
FORUM, 6:30-7:30 p. m.  
(Preceded by Social Tea at 6 P. M.)  
Leader: Ellen Sutherland (Student Panel)  
Subject: "Where Is Democracy on the U.-O. Campus?"

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