

Dean Eldon L. Johnson Explains Liberal Arts Position on Registration Holdup

The preregistration procedure as it applies to the college of liberal arts was worked out by a committee of department heads and approved by the dean. Their recommendations were then approved by the registrar's office and became a part of the printed

procedure. It is the desire of the college to confine the registration to the shortest period of time commensurate with sound advising in order that the conduct of the classes will not be interfered with by excessive demands on the time of professors. There has been

a great deal of debate as to whether the registration procedure could not be successfully confined to a much shorter period of time. The college and the registrar's office have agreed to conduct this experiment to determine whether a shorter period is or is not feasible. Since the recommen-

dations were not applied to the University as a whole, the college of liberal arts is in the unfortunate position of appearing to hold up registration procedure for everyone. That was certainly not our intent and we regret the inconvenience anyone may be caused. We believe that in the

long run the students will be as much interested as we in determining whether preregistration can successfully be confined to a one-week instead of a two-week period. The advantages to the teaching staff are tremendous.

Eldon L. Johnson
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Like Easter Eggs

If anyone desires a little recreation, but is bored with the old solution of running around the block, we suggest he drop over to the library (large building next to the art museum and across from the Phi Delt house) and check out a periodical for a workout. The growing pains of the library have brought just pain to the student.

In that we have been directed by arrows through the four years of our college life, it has not been too difficult to track down the new locations of the various reserve and reference rooms although it has given us a feeling of kinship with rats in a maze.

But then there is the crowning joy of exploring the new arrangements for obtaining periodicals. For the edification of those who do not frequent the house of knowledge until the last week of the term, we offer the harrowing tale of the difficulties to be encountered. Looking for an article on the goiter tendencies of the giraffe, you say? Then off to the reference room and the Readers' Guide—but, whoops, it's finally been moved upstairs. One less obstacle. Arriving at the former upper division study room now known as the periodical room, you find that the Fauna Weekly of February, 1947, carried a fine article for your use.

But the fun has just begun. In the little room at the far end of the study hall, the recent publications are arranged in alphabetical order so the student can help himself. They are also arranged by issue date but this became a myth after the first day when pawing hands made June and December neighboring months.

There is also the question of whether or not the February issue of Fauna Weekly will be considered a "recent" periodical—with some magazines it is, with some it isn't. If it is, you're lucky—that is unless some untrustworthy student get there ahead of you and slyly slip your desired magazine in his notebook and glide out of the library. In that case, it's just tough shoes. An even more stunning blow is to be informed by the librarian that "that issue is at the bindery and won't be back for three months."

All in all this business is extremely frustrating but the fault certainly doesn't lie with the librarians who are trying to cope with inadequate facilities. The magazine shelves were opened to the students in order to facilitate handling. The few who have abused the privilege have brought on near chaos. As yet the new system does not seem much more efficient than the old, but it is still being organized. You may get that paper written on the goiter tendencies of the giraffe.

M.E.T.

'Reminds Me of a Phase I Once Went Through' --Roget

By BETTY ANN STEVENS

I used to know a fellow who was unusually good as H. L. Mencken, the epitome of Schlitzzy, salty satire, with elements of the Richard Harding Davis school of swashbuckle. He had absorbed Mencken's writing style to such a degree that rumors were circulated they had become the same blood type.

He adroitly adorned his conversation pieces with such Menckenian gleanings as, "When a newspaperman writes a book about his experiences, as all great newsmen do, it evolves into a sketch of Big Men Whom I Have Met in Small Bars."

Eventually the fellow regressed into sinister platitudes like, "Newspapermen meet such interesting people. And they're all newspapermen." This was delivered in a rough, tough snarl. He also developed a gastroduodenal ulcer, read only the liberal weeklies, wore a beret on the back of his head, and wrote letters promoting vivisection to the editor of the Oocheegoomwah Express-Bee-Red. At latest report, he was experimenting with smutty verse in iambic tetrameter.

There lurk many pitfalls for the unconscious plagiarist in the works of Thomas

Wolfe, Damon Runyon, Ernest Hemingway, Noel Coward, Virginia Woolf, and Henry Wallace.

One might very well pray to be delivered from paragraphs of glorified adjectives, blinding, deafening color, four-letter words, brittle monosyllables, the slippery stream of consciousness, and the disapproval of the Republican party.

The crosspatch I bear Max Shulman. Would that he had lived during the Irish potato famine and had learned to write with an undernourished brogue.

Because of him, I have "fits of pique," "smile becomingly," find my throat "all choked up," and crave hominy grits.

Because of him, improper nouns like "navel," "Green Goose," and "cop" have crept insidiously into my vocabulary.

Because of him, suspicion has been cast upon the legitimacy of Ivy Butterphlop, Apertura Cranium, and Felina St. Garblesnatch.

But the absolute, soul-wrenching apex of humiliation was reached just yesterday when I snapped, becomingly, of course, "Oh, zip your lip," and realized, in a colorful, deafening, blinding flash that Shulman, that dastardly "literary" influence, was the incentive for my mirth-provoking, knee slapper of a witticism.

Public Opinion Is the Answer

By LARRY LAU

(Editor's Note: Since Columnist Lau's discussion of Portland vice conditions 11 days ago, and since the Emerald editorial shaming the Portland press for being sleepy, the Emerald has been swamped with mail. Much of it has been from Portland newspaper people. Some of them patted us on the back. Others administered the pats a little harder and a little lower.

A Portland reporter wrote, assailing Lau's article as "superficial," explaining in part:

"Knowing that these things exist and cleaning up Portland are two entirely different matters . . . getting proof on the big boys is almost an impossibility . . . if the police department allows what you and the City club say it does, then the district attorney has a very limited force to depend upon to obtain evidence . . ."

There are few who deny that Portland has its share of vice. The argument is, how much. Admittedly there is enough evidence to warrant public attention. The newspapers of Portland have the same information as the City club. Perhaps, because a paper must know its city, they have more.

A cleanup of this size is one over which any district attorney could honestly shudder. Probably the only weapon with enough force to effect a thorough cleanup is an aroused public opinion. The newspapers, as dispensers of information, are the tools with which this weapon must be forged. To date, we wonder if these tools have been put to their most effective use?

Presenting ALL the facts and letting the public decide, on the basis of these facts, what should be done, is a prime responsibility of the Oregon press. True, there are

laws of libel which no paper dares cross. True also is the fact that the men behind an organized vice ring love publicity like bubonic plague. The lack of a positive public opinion could be because the public has not been completely informed.

The history of journalism is dotted with case after case where a paper dared to bring "irregular" conditions to the public's attention, case after case where editors risked libel action for the public benefit. If cities like New York and Chicago can be cleaned up, we see no reason why Portlanders need think of vice and corruption as "inevitable."

Where are the thundering editorial pages and accusing headlines that made the American press the world's greatest? Perhaps the press has "progressed" too far. Newspapers of yesteryear had consuming faith in the people and in their inherent ability to make a correct decision in time of stress. We hope the streamlined press of 1948 hasn't lost that faith.

Democracy at best is truly, "a government of the people." If this be so, then the people's will may transcend the law. The people may acquit and convict. We think it the duty of a newspaper to acquaint the readers with all the facts. In so doing the case will be put directly to the highest court in the land, in this case, the citizens of Oregon.

There are laws on the statute books of Oregon which specifically prohibit the various forms of vice existing in Portland today. When passed by the legislature, these laws were meant to be enforced. If the citizens of Oregon no longer desire their enforcement, if they want laws to conform to existing conditions, rather than conditions to conform to the law, then, at least for the sake of state pride, the laws should be so amended.

