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ALL-AMERICAN 1946-47

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So You Like to Argue?

With Oregon primary elections coming up the 21st of May, there appears to be an unusual degree of interest among students in the issues concerning the great world outside. Political arguments (some of them quite intelligent) seem to be almost the rule these weeks.

The Emerald is eager to help shed light on the issues involved in the several contests—without giving its blessing to any specific candidate or measure. Between now and election, we should like to carry discussions of the issues. Students interested in presenting a certain side of an issue may contact the editor in the Emerald quonset hut at 12th and University streets for details as to length, form, etc. of the statements.

This paper will carry no statement without the opposing statement, and for the sake of brevity will carry no statements for candidates who have no opposition in the primary. All statements involving any single issue will be carried the same day, and will be equally displayed.

Any takers?

The Gentleman Offends

Ever since the advent of the lipstick and the comb, women have listened to male censure against using these beautifying aids in public. "We don't shave in public," the men have growled, "so why should women bring their make-up kits into public places." But a flaw has been discovered in the perfect male. Now it is the women's turn to rant, rave and deplore.

In nearly every lecture class there is at least one male student who accompanies the professor's voice with the persistent snip-snip of an ingenious nail clipper. Although the gadget itself has long been in use, only recently has it seemed to find its way into the classroom much to the annoyance and danger of students in its vicinity. Nor is the operation a simple one. In nearly every recorded case—and there are quite a number—nail trimming for one individual takes the full class hour. Either Oregon men have the longest, fastest-growing nails in the world or they have more than the usual five fingers on each hand.

Grades will undoubtedly suffer in any class where nail-clipping individuals operate. It is impossible for students to concentrate on a lecture while waiting, teeth on edge, for the next loud snip to resound throughout the room. And the hazards offered by flying bits of old fingernails should be obvious to anyone.

Against the nauseous, irritating nail clippers, we'll take the silent-moving comb and lipstick anytime.

M. E. T.

Public Service

The San Francisco Chronicle is more than a big voice from Fifth and Mission streets in the Bay City. It has also from time to time proved to be a public service institution. Another evidence of this side-line activity appeared in the Emerald's mail yesterday as "A Political Primer for Americans."

Written by Earl C. Behrens, political editor of the Chronicle, the primer, a 27 page collation of facts and figures, is an excellent discussion of the process Americans must go through each four years in order to elect a president. Mr. Behrens has apparently taken note of the appalling ignorance of the average American about things political, for the book contains the most elementary information. It also contains an excellent list of primary election dates, delegation strengths at the national conventions, senators and governors who are to be elected this year, and state primary regulations. In short it's a valuable little pamphlet to have around.

Off hand the only flaw we could find was that Oregon was left out of the list of states which choose governors this year. And that is an excusable omission, since our gubernatorial election this year is not in the regular scheme of things.

As We Rush to Destruction

By HENRY KAMIN

"CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL" by Arnold J. Toynbee, 263 pages, New York Oxford press, \$3.50.

Strikingly original evaluations of the Western World and its future overflow "Civilization on Trial" by Arnold J. Toynbee, Britain's, if not the world's, outstanding historian-philosopher.

It is a minor supplement to his already classic "Study of History" and an indication of what the eagerly awaited three volumes of the series will discuss. Indeed, familiarity with the "History" will help readers appreciate the heady flavor of these 13 essays which are based on lectures given for the most part in Eastern schools last year.

After explaining his view of history, the author declares that the intestine warfare between parochial states which our world is now enduring destroyed the ancient Greek civilization. If we fail to meet the challenge, our civilization, too, may succumb because international anarchy was not replaced in time with international order.

"The contest between the United States and the Soviet Union for the political and ideological no-man's land lying between them" may develop into the war of extermination which would destroy our civilization or establish a universal state on the lines of the Roman empire.

Unification Certain

But no matter how this contest is resolved, the world will be unified politically in the near future either by voluntary federation or through a conqueror's peace.

At present, "the United Nations constitution represents the closest degree of cooperation the United States and the Soviet Union can reach at present." And the author points out that such weak political organizations have never proved stable or permanent in the past.

Toynbee has performed a valuable service for Americans by giving in brief, tantalizing snatches of history how and why medieval Russia developed the characteristics associated with Communism: the police state, hostility toward the West, and the sense of manifest destiny in which only Russia was right and the rest of the world wrong.

All or Nothing?

Russia has attempted to prevent being forcibly Westernized by adopting Western techniques as rapidly as she can, while trying to control the rate of assimilation. The question is whether or not she can partially adopt an alien civilization without embracing it all.

She must decide "between taking her

The Cold-Metal Revolution Looms

By BILL LOVE

press speeds, and lighter and less expensive rotary presses in the future.

In these days when "cold war" and "revolution" are commonplace terms in international headlines and in our vocabularies it is worthwhile to glance briefly at a more peaceful type of "cold revolution" now in progress—one that is of vital importance to the journalistic future and the newspaper of tomorrow. It is the "cold metal revolution."

Many new developments for the publication of printed material have come to public attention since the Chicago publishers began printing their daily newspapers four months ago without the use of the conventional "hot metal" slug. Some of these new devices are ready for actual operation; others are still in the laboratory or testing stages. Combined, they are the weapons for this cold metal revolution, which is the production of the newspaper (or other printed material) without resorting to lead type as in the past. Nobody foresees a complete change to these newly developed techniques, and in all probability, the Chicago papers will return

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A BOOK REVIEW

place in a Western world or holding aloof and attempting to build up an anti-Western counter-world of her own."

Fear of Communism is described as mostly due to its propaganda which "magnifies the seamy side of the Western world and makes Communism appear a desirable way of life" to a dissatisfied faction of the West.

Nobody is Immune

But neither world is immune to subversive influences from the other. "They reveal their fears in the measures each takes to protect itself against the other's radiation. The fact that Communism threatens us by exposing our defects rather than by forcibly suppressing our virtues proves that the challenge comes not from without, but from within ourselves."

Much of the cause of the trouble in the world lies in the fact that "Man has been a dismal failure in the things of the spirit, and it has been the great tragedy of human life . . . for the spiritual side of man's life is of vastly greater importance for man's well-being, (even for his material well-being, in the last resort) than is his command over non-human nature."

Despite the threatening clouds, Toynbee is optimistic about mankind's future even in the event of an atomic war. "Christianity may not only endure, but grow in wisdom and stature," and eventually rebuild a new civilization if our present one is destroyed.

Christianity is Tough

This may occur because "institutions created or adopted and adapted by Christianity are the toughest and most enduring of any that we know and are therefore the most likely to last and outlast the rest."

In attempting to answer the question of why civilizations die, the acknowledged expert on civilizations advances the breathtaking idea that "the breakdowns and disintegrations of civilizations might be stepping-stones to higher things on the religious plane . . . the continuous upward movement of religion may be served and promoted by the cyclic movement of civilization's round of birth, death, birth."

Toynbee concludes with the majestic conception that "the historical progress of religion in this world as represented by the rise of the higher religions and their culminations in Christianity may almost certainly bring with it an immeasurable improvement in the conditions of human life on Earth."

"Its direct effect and its deliberate aim and its true test is the opportunity which it brings to individual souls for spiritual progress in this world . . ."