

## Look Here, Mr. Poll Taker...

... For many months now, you have helped spread over this land the belief that the Republican's Mr. Dewey was a sure bet to knock the Democrat's Mr. Truman out of the White House in Tuesday's election.

Abetted by a strong Republican press, you convinced nearly all of us that a vote for President Truman was as silly as a bet on one of Bing Crosby's horses.

However...

... YOU FORGOT A THING OR TWO ABOUT AMERICA'S MR. AVERAGE CITIZEN!

He's not an automaton. On the contrary, he's a very unpredictable guy.

Attempting to fit him into a scientific groove is like trying to drive square pegs in round holes.

Mr. Poll Taker—we think you attempt the impossible when you try to reduce American public opinion to a formula.

We agree with the history professor on this campus who told a class yesterday that national opinion polls, the ultimate effort of the social sciences to achieve scientific exactitude, have "failed dismally."

Although "Fighting Harry" Truman's smashing victory has undoubtedly caused great consternation in the camps of Messrs. Gallup, Roper, et al., on the other hand, it has greatly reaffirmed our faith in this country and its way of life.

Even though your forecasts indicated that they were wasting their time, enough Americans believed in this country's free-election system to trek to the polls and vote for Mr. Truman anyhow.

Maybe it was "just for the hell of it."

However, we think not.

It seems more likely to us that beating in the breasts of those Truman voters was the same kind of hope that kept Jim Aiken's football team fighting on against St. Mary's last Saturday, even though student opinion in the stands "indicated" the game was lost.

## Campaign Promises

There are some old-fashioned enough to harbor the hope that campaign promises will be kept. In the case of Ed Johnson, University alum and newly-elected mayor of Eugene, the hope may well be justified.

Long a staunch supporter of the University, Johnson has, for the last four years through his position on the city council, worked for University-city cooperation.

In an Emerald interview, the mayor-elect said he was in favor of a speedy restoration of the mill race and believed the city should aid financially in this project. He also gave high priority to the improvement of traffic and parking conditions near the University.

Returns from precincts near the University showed an overwhelming vote for Johnson. This was particularly true of Precinct 27, which included the bulk of the University students. This would indicate that the students put faith in Johnson's statements and showed this faith at the polls.

This same faith has a good chance of paying off. B. B.

Notes by a visiting Washington State student at Homecoming:

The Oregon Homecoming signs are much more elaborate than ours but much more confused. Just a hodge podge of crepe paper and all about their own school. Very few of the group houses connected the Cougars to their Homecoming ideas. The Sig Eps, however, used the slogan of "Can the Cougars" and won the noise rally contest...

They have a very nice campus, but no student Union building. The proposed Union will be named the Erb Memorial Union whenever they get a chance to build the structure.

Everybody that reported of their experiences in Oregon over the weekend told of fun, frolic, and gaiety. We had poor seats at the game, but hospitality of the Oregon groups made up for the poor seating. The students were glad they won the game, but did not become big-headed or brag too much about their victory.—(Washington State Evergreen.)

# America Awakes With Red Faces

By DON McNEIL

Red-faced America woke up Wednesday to one of the most staggering political upsets in our history. After the feeling of amazement had passed, people began questioning how and why it happened.

As one professor said, it would take about 5 billion dollars and 5 million psychiatrists to find out how Truman got himself reelected. Let's try a few samples.

1. Dewey lost the battle himself when he persisted on sticking to the "unity" theme. He refused to stoop to issues in making his plea to the country. The inference we draw from this is that the American people are taking more interest in what's going on in the world around them.

They are not satisfied with just talk. Their levels of perception and analysis and interest are higher than they were in the between-the-wars period. True, they want the great American ideal held up before them, but they want it backed up with such concrete things as discussion of ECA federal housing, and labor relations.

2. Organized labor turned out en masse. This certainly had something to do with it. Labor was out to slug the Republican

congress into submission for passing the hated Taft-Hartley law. And when they got the turnout to defeat the congressmen who had voted for the bill, they gathered in votes for Harry Truman.

The Republicans spent terrific amount of money and the Democrats, in comparison, spent very little. Labor's expenditures however, offset this very nicely.

3. People were so sure of a Dewey victory they wasted their votes. This point has considerable attraction. For not only were there those who didn't bother voting, but there were many, who felt that because Dewey was a shoo-in for the job, they might as well register a protest vote against both candidates.

If they had thought it was going to be close, perhaps they would have taken what they considered to be the lesser of two evils. Truman, though, might have garnered as many as Dewey to defeat by saying it was going to be a landslide for Dewey.

Despite these three reasons, all contributing to the Truman victory, there are questions unanswered.

The press was 80 per cent for Dewey. How could Truman get

through this seemingly impenetrable curtain? We could estimate from this that the editorial page really has very little influence on the voting public. And, of course, Roosevelt always faced a preponderantly hostile press.

Another doubt arises over the personal appeal of the respective candidates. Evidently this isn't considered any more. For where could you find two more charming, gracious candidates than Dewey and Warren?

Maybe the little episodes like the train engineer and the Life Magazine students in McArthur court helped form different conclusions on the part of the voters.

Yes, there are hundreds of reasons, large and small. We like to consider this election as refreshing. For it gives hope that when it gets right down to it the American people cannot have a thought pattern thrust on them. There is still much individual analysis and opinion, despite the propaganda set forth by both sides.

At this rate, Senator Taft had better start a campaign to get his legislatures to ratify his constitutional amendment limiting the presidency to two terms.

## The Latest In Books

By TERRY REVENAUGH

Here's a merry twosome to combat post-election, post-mid-term apathy. The first, "Westward Ha!" (subtitled "Around the World in Eighty Cliches") is a maniacal diary written by the irrepressible S. J. Perelman and lavishly illustrated by his zany companion, Hirschfeld. These two habitués of Times Square, subsidized by travel magazine, Holiday, set out on their safari in January, 1947.

Mercilessly failing to omit any key place that might conceivably spawn a cliché, Perelman and his accomplice, Hirschfeld, visit the steaming jungles of Cochín China, the sun-baked wastes of the Sahara, the crocodile infested waters of Lake Chad and the woman-infested cafes of Port Said. They travel by steamer, freighter, plane, camel back, donkey and, inadvertently, sagging on the arms of porters in the wee hours.

Written in a burlesque of travel magazine blurbs, plus some of Perelman's matchless mania, the book begins with a giggle and ends in complete demoralization.

Says Perelman, "If you ever want a place where scenery and climate fuse to produce unadulterated witchery, where life has the tremulous sweetness of a plucked lute-strings and darkness falls all too soon, go to the Hotel Plaza in New York."

Even if you dislike the Perelman humor, by all means see the lascivious pen-work of Hirschfeld.

"The Lost Art of Profanity" will give you not only new and salty phrases for your vocabulary but it can double as research for an English course. "Cussing," says author Dr. Burgess Johnson, "is deeply ingrained in man's nature and its background is respectable."

Dr. Johnson laments the good old days. "Gone are the echoing oaths of a day when swearing called for skill and imagination. There is a superficial ailment... among moderns... swearers are generally less afraid of Moses than of Emily Post."

Progressing from "Cussing in

## POLITICAL FRONT Certainly SOMEONE in Nation Thought Mr. Truman Would Win

By Vinita Howard

If any forecaster had predicted one month ago that Truman would defeat Dewey he would have been laughed out of the country. Today, he would be hailed as one of the few men in the nation with any "donkey-sense."

What started out to be a complete victory for the GOP in 1948 has ended in almost complete defeat, while the Missouri donkey and Truman have raced across the line to do the impossible according to all "reliable" polls.

While what happened at the election polls Tuesday was a great surprise to the Republicans, their shock could never compete with that of those expert poll-takers, Gallup and Roper.

For weeks the forecasters had been predicting that Truman didn't have a chance, that Dewey would win by a substantial margin, etc. That's why thousands of radio listeners and radio commentators, too, were unable to believe what they saw before them when the returns started rolling in for Truman.

Not even at Democratic headquarters Tuesday night was there much hope for a Truman victory. The party at first was resigned and any thought of victory seemed overly optimistic. Most Democrats had resigned themselves to defeat. All that is, except the "little" man from Missouri—the only one confident of his campaign ability.

The big questions in the minds

General," Dr. Johnson goes into the "Oath Denunciatory," "The Oath Interjectional," and "Maledictions." He finds the Orientals most adept at malediction but religious people are the most profane.

Maybe you have mother-in-law trouble, a wretched golf game or a tough government course. Here's your chance to do some research for the appropriate phrase.

"Westward Ha!" by S. J. Perelman. Simon and Schuster. \$2.95. 159 pages.

of everyone today are what happened, why and how could the forecasters be so terribly wrong. These questions will be the topics for much discussion in the months ahead, but it is doubtful if any one reason can be given for the surprising win of President Truman.

A few guesses, however, have been and can be ventured. First, Americans are supposed to traditionally support an underdog—that's exactly what Truman was until Tuesday night. Second, "Hard Hitting Harry" campaigned on basic issues and by doing so succeeded in convincing the voters that he should be continued in office.

Third, the people, especially the labor class, did not approve of the action of the 80th congress and took this means of hitting back at the proponents of the Taft-Hartley labor law. Fourth, the GOP was guilty of over-confidence and thus failed to take off the kid gloves to campaign with the equal vigor of Truman.

This list of possible reasons could go on and on, and they probably will. No single factor contributed to the election of Truman for a full term in his own right.

Considering what happened in the congressional race, perhaps it is fortunate that Truman did win. Both the HR and the senate are now in Democratic hands and had Dewey been elected it seems certain that the administrative and the legislative branches of the government would have been at each other's necks for the next four years.

Something must be vitally wrong within the national Republican party and it now seems apparent that if the GOP ever hopes to get back in power they will have to get new blood for leadership, clean out the reactionary element in the party, ditch the Joe Grundy outfit and, most important make a complete break with the NAM and gain the labor vote.

Move over, Mr. Gallup, you have lots of company!

## OREGON DAILY EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD, published daily during the college year except Sundays, Mondays, holidays, and final examination periods by the Associated Students, University of Oregon. Subscription rates: \$2.00 per term and \$4.00 per year. Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice, Eugene, Oregon.

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