

Sophomore Wisdom

She Combats Slander With Courage and Dignity

... by Bob Funk

On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 27, the Emerald ran a front-page story on the Civic Music Association's schedule for the coming year. In the story it was pointed out that Kirsten Flagstad, the Wagnerian soprano, would appear in a McArthur Court concert late in October.

Immediately following the publication of the Civic Music Association's schedule, both the association and University President H. K. Newburn received a complaint (apparently from the same source) on Madame Flagstad's appearance. The basis of this complaint was the singer's war record.

This sort of thing has been

going on too long. We are probably lucky that in Eugene we have had only one complaint. Philadelphia and San Francisco had hundreds. It is evident that after all the months Flagstad has been singing since the war, after the several complete loyalty clearances by her own government, there are still people who insist on slinging their own little fistful of mud in order to satisfy the perversion of what we may possibly consider their ideals.

Madame Flagstad has made no mistake insofar as anyone has been able to determine. She simply went home to Norway during the war to be with her husband. The hus-

band was a Nazi sympathizer, now dead; however, there is no evidence that in being faithful to him Flagstad supported the Nazi party.

In her own mind, obviously, Madame Flagstad has justified her past actions. At any rate she has returned to the United States without apparent shame or misgivings, and met with courage and dignity the attacks which various groups have made upon her—all of which may indicate a clear conscience.

America is extremely fortunate in having Flagstad back. The soprano is thought of by most critics as the greatest Wagnerian interpreter now living. Her performances in the Wagnerian Cy-

cle at the Metropolitan Opera prior to the war established for her a reputation which can hardly be disputed or ignored on the basis of such dubious evidence we now have against her.

There may be no more complaints forthcoming on Madame Flagstad's appearance in Eugene. Certainly there will be no such nauseating display of ignorant ill-will as was found in San Francisco last summer.

San Francisco's chief opponent to Madame Flagstad's appearance there (she is scheduled for one matinee and one evening performance at the San Francisco opera this fall) was a gentleman

who admitted that he had "never heard of this Flagstaff" before, but contended that "where there's that much smoke there must be fire."

With the help of the San Francisco Chronicle and some unexpectedly liberal aid from Hearst's Examiner, Flagstad opposition was silenced. In spite of the gentleman's inspired efforts. She will appear in San Francisco. And in spite of such people all over the country, Flagstad will continue to appear; because, luckily, most people are able to differentiate between natural marital loyalty and subversive activity, between a living symbol of great music and a dangerous Fascist on the loose.

Ritin' at Random...

Music and Pea-Green Quonset Huts

... by Jo Gilbert

A case of Milwaukie's Finest to Dick Williams! He hooked Les Brown for the Sophomore Whiskerino but that isn't the end of it. If we are wanting more of the same, a few characters besides the old stand-bys should save their shekels and bring themselves over to Mac Court for the dance. For we can't complain when we get Willie Gleek for dances if the Sophomores go into the red on this dance. Here's the chance to prove that a name band will pay off.

Longstanding gripe—the blasted, atrocious pea-green color that the University persists in plastering on all paintable objects, on and off campus. Amazon housing, the trailers, the quonsets—all this and more touched with a delectable pea-green. Why, oh why of all colors was this chosen? Colorblindness? And the legal name of this paint is "Robin's Egg Blue"—what did the poor robin do to deserve this fate?

Blackest event in University history was probably the year the liquor store burned down on Homecoming Day.

Note to Jazz lovers:

A guy named Eubanks out at KORE has one

fine jazz show—aired Monday nights at 10:30. Best (which is not a pun at the sponsor, Best Cleaners) to hit Eugene in many a long year. Everything from Dixie to Bop. And speaking of Bop, take a listen to some Mile Davis—he records on Capital, and probably one of the best is "Godchild", a strictly Bop number. Davis uses, among other things, a French horn, tuba, and baritone sax—frantic!! and vibes.

Speaking of rumors (and who was?):

A campus "old Dawg", name of Herb Widmer, must be leading an interesting life—that is, if he is keeping up with all the current rumors about him. I hate to disappoint the guys tossing them about, but Herb is NOT the janitor at the art school, he did NOT sell his alto and tenor, he is NOT working for the Eugene Sanitation Department, he is NOT jobbing in Portland. In fact, according to good authority, he is still around and probably has the most versatile combo in these here parts—the piano man doubles on vibes, the bass man doubles on trumpet, and Herb hits a homer on alto, tenor, bass,

Our Readers Speak

Dear Editor:

While discussing various aspects of college life with some freshmen students I found that quite a number of them were worried about their psychology decile rating. Some of them actually believing they were morons because they had decile ratings of one.

Being a typical college student, I was very much interested in finding out the truth. So I went down to the testing center and talked to Dr. Carlson, director of the center. Much to my enlightenment I found that this psychology decile was just an indication of how you compared with other college freshman in your vocabulary, reading, and comprehension. It was for determining your deficiency in those fields.

In other words, your psychology decile can be raised by increasing your vocabulary and speeding up your reading and comprehension rate.

Finding this out made me very happy. I rushed right down to the book store and bought a vocabulary book and even a dictionary. Hearing that the testing center was giving a course for slow readers, I took advantage of the opportunity and registered for the course.

So if any of you with low decile ratings have the wherewithall and gumption, you can be better than you are.—Dave Swanson, Jr.

On Things In General...

Esquire to the Guide

... by Steve Loy

Emerald sports editor Dave Taylor deserves the "Loyal Webfoot" award of the week in my opinion. Spotted 21 points on the ball game last week. A lot of people gave odds on the wrong side of the board.

How many of the literati saw Oregon Hall in the Pendleton Woolen Mills ad in the September Esquire? Page 7.

The reporter who did the story on the hierarchy to be elected in Hendricks and Carson did a fine job but left out a detail which will make for even more of a Mexican army effect. When one of the five floor presidents is elected house president, she must resign and another floor president will be elected in her place. Question, who will be left to vote?

Have heard and uttered some dissatisfaction on the Bunion Derby procedure. Seems some groups failed to keep on schedule, making for definite congestion in some houses. The gang I went with was aced out several times by another crew arriving five minutes ahead of us and claiming all the femininity.

The Theatah...

Turnabout Makes Good Play at VLT

... by George Spelvin

Otilie Seybolt sets the pace for the Very Little Theater production of "Papa is All," which has five days remaining in its run at the fairgrounds playhouse.

Mrs. Seybolt, who is known more generally to students for her abilities as a director in the University Theater, carried the play as the understanding, patient Mama. While the three-act comedy by Patterson Greene got off to a slow start due to the difficulty of catching on to the Mennonite accent of the characters, it quickly gained a fast pace. The accent soon became one of the delightful features of the comedy.

Tru Vosberg showed considerable skill as the spirited Emma. Miss Vosberg, a University student, has appeared before in Very Little Theater productions, but has yet to be seen on the stage of the University Theater.

The play is a humorous study of a Pennsylvania dutch family so domineered by a stern father that their very home is a jail to them. Mama cannot have a telephone; Emma cannot see a boy in her parlor; and Jake, the son, who

has wheels in his head, must draw and plan machines only when he is sure papa is not around.

The production has been given a number of beautiful touches by production manager Ken Poull, who designed and created the set, and director George Hebert. Mrs. Seybolt is at her best when handling the stage properties and when working in the kitchen. Her realistic and meticulous care for the kitchen gives the production an added polish.

Off-stage sound effects, good lighting, a well-constructed set, the attention paid to detail and a capable cast, make the play one of the better produced by the Very Little Theater.

Short Stuff

What page of the Emerald d'ya read?

Yesterday's issue had three interesting items about the University Theater. On page six we claimed general tryouts would be announced in a later issue; on page seven that they would be held Wednesday night; and on page eight that they would not be held on Wednesday, but Tuesday, instead. No staff member is quite sure how this unique situation occurred.