

Raising Kane Platitudinous Ponderosity

by Hank Kane

Once upon a time there were two would-be writers in a creative English writing class whom we shall call Roger and Dodger for ease of identification.

Roger was a literary craftsman who wrote with the clarity of expression that is the mark of the perfectionist. His style was as starkly beautiful as the first chapter of Genesis.

He observed all the rules of good writing laid down from on high by his English and journalism instructors. These rules were sometimes so contradictory that it was quite a feat to reconcile the inconsistencies.

Never satisfied with what he wrote, Roger would revise and revise until the deadline, and then be heartsick because he had not substituted in time a better word or phrase. Thus, whenever Roger found in his work a term the average reader might not understand, he unceasingly sought a suitable two syllable synonym. There was never a trite, wasted, or extra word in his copy.

His work was also multi-dimensional. First there were the words that conveyed the surface meaning. But the observant reader who noticed more than the obvious meaning caught the whispered thesis diffused through the whole story. The ordinary words were like the small part of an iceberg seen above water. The revealed portion disclosed that the greater part was below the waterline.

Now Dodger was like Roger in using the same English language, but there the similarity ends. Dodger thought that highfaluting and obscure pontification was good writing.

His sentences would have delighted a Victorian grammarian. Many were so long and involved that Dodger forgot what he had said at the beginning of the sentence by the time he reached the middle. When this failing was brought to his attention Dodger would reply that if a professor could do it, so could he.

Dodger would say in 50 words what anyone else could say in ten, and how he enjoyed using obscure allusions to minor persons and expressions long dead and longer forgotten! Incomprehensible words were his specialty. He would hunt through unabridged dictionaries for words like peccancy, renitent, and mnemonic, and scatter them through his prose at random. Impressed people, he said.

And people were so impressed, and while most of them didn't have the patience to read his verbal gymnastics, they predicted that he would have a great future.

Whatever became of Roger and Dodger?

Well, Roger turned into a low-brow newspaper who knocks out his 2,000 words of readable copy a day for a regular paycheck.

Dodger so exercised his "talents" that he attracted the attention of the "advanced" critics. Now his work is regularly published in the high-brow literary magazines for five copies of the publication.

Journal Reporter Addresses Class

Larry Smyth, political reporter for the Oregon Journal, addressed a reporting class last week concerning newspaper coverage of political events.

In reviewing his experiences as a journalist, Smyth discussed the new radio forum held by Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse in which listeners phoned in questions to be answered on the air. He also commented on the 1948 Dewey-Stassen debate and Mike Elliott's career as sheriff in Multnomah County.

Smyth was a police and sports reporter before turning to political writing. He was in Eugene to cover a talk by Morse.

Condon Club Elects To Full Membership

Seventeen men were recently elected to full membership in Condon Club, a geology and geography social group. Those selected are:

James Barlow, John McManigal, Robert Redmond, James McNab, William Bales, Lenin Pamp, Robert Burke, Robert Dahlgren, Don Hausen, Walter Foster, Lewis Schrag, Kirk Zumwalt, Vinson Holdbrook, Norman Degner, Charles Halbfus, Kenneth Farmer, and Charles Bradfish.

Dr. Joseph Gair, assistant professor of geology, was also elected to an honorary membership in the club.

On the Air Who Wants to Play Santa

by Marty Weitzner

As far as the Emerald is concerned, it's Christmas now. We will all be home on December 25, so in this, the last big issue, we are getting Yuletide spirits up early. If anyone is in a particularly benevolent holiday mood, we know just the people to be benevolent toward.

Up at Villard, they have a University radio studio that is second to none in the country. We have practically everything up there except the thing the whole studio was designed to house—a radio station.

That's where our benevolent friends come in. If you know where you can get your hands on about \$2000, step forward. You can get your Alma Mater a radio station.

A standard AM radio station costs more than \$2000. But for about that sum, we could have a fully operating FM unit.

It would not cost living organizations much to install this attachment. An assessment of about 50 cents a member would get any group a tuner for their regular set, or a small table sized FM radio.

You could then be assured that come rain, thunder, or lightning, the radio would present clear programs, devoid of static, from any FM station within range.

Christmas Sale SKI CLOTHES

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So don't get caught by Sharpies Bold!
Who raise their prices...late at night!
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Christmas

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Happy
New
Year