

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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Guest Editorial

Are We Losing Our Sense of Individuality?

We picked up a copy of the Mississippian, weekly newspaper of the University of Mississippi, the other day, and found some paragraphs in an editorial entitled "Some Ideas to Think About" which we feel deserve serious consideration by students and their elders everywhere.

Herewith we reprint a portion of the editorial: "American college youth is being assailed from many sides during these chaotic days. Many of us in searching for some key to what is assuredly a troubled situation, find little consolation in the course which our leaders seem to be traveling..."

"Mink coats, deep freezes, job selling, these are only a few of the evidences that the realm of 'dead' things may not be limited only to Denmark. It is a cause of great wonder as to what is right and wrong or who is to blame for what..."

"American people in general and the youth especially need some goal, some signposts to pattern their actions after, for after all, we have become, basically, a generation of followers.

"William Faulkner, Oxford's famous author, made some significant statements, we think, when he talked to graduating Oxford high school seniors last spring. Maybe he was striking close to the sought-after key when he said:

"What threatens us today is fear. Not the atom bomb, nor even the fear of it, because, if the bomb fell on Oxford tonight, all it could do would be to kill us, which is nothing, since in doing that, it will have robbed itself of its only power of us; which is fear of it.

"Our danger is not that. Our danger is the forces in the world today which are trying to use man's fear to rob him of his individuality, his soul, trying to reduce him to an unthinking mass by fear and bribery... the economics or ideologies or political systems... the tyrants and the politicians, American or European or Asiatic, whatever they call themselves, who would reduce man to one obedient mass for their own aggrandisement and power, or because they themselves are baffled and afraid, afraid of, or incapable of, believing in

man's capacity for courage and endurance and sacrifice.

"This is what we must resist, if we are to change the world for man's peace and security. It is not men in the mass who can and will save Man. It is Man himself, created in the image of God so that he shall have the power and the will to choose right from wrong, and so be able to save himself because he is worth saving.

"Man, the individual, men and women, who will refuse to be tricked or frightened or bribed into surrendering, not just the right but the duty too, to choose between justice and injustice, courage and cowardice, sacrifice and greed, pity and self; who will believe always not only in the right of man to be free of injustice and rapacity and reception, but the duty and responsibility of man to see that justice and truth and pity and compassion are done.

"So never be afraid. Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion, against injustice and lying and greed. If you, not just you in this room tonight, but in all the thousands of other rooms like this one about the world today and tomorrow and next week, will do this, not as a class or classes but as individuals, men and women, you will change the earth.

"In one generation all the Napoleons and Hitlers and Caesars and Mussolinis and Stalins and all the other tyrants who want power and aggrandisement, and the simple politicians and time-servers who themselves are merely baffled or ignorant or afraid, who have used or are using, or hope to use, their fear and greed for man's enslavement, will have vanished from the face of it."

Have we become a generation of followers? We believe that there are telling indications that we have; that the general outcry against corruption in high places is mingled with a helpless shrug and a "what can I do about it" attitude.

If, as we believe, democracy as a system is established because through the exercise of the individual voice it best secures the right of the individual, what is its future if the individual has lost his individuality?

Just Think About It

There's a striking spread of pictures in the current issue of Life magazine. It might be a good idea for all those people who haven't yet given blood to take a look at the pictures.

We aren't going to make a sales talk about the blood drives. If you think about the whole situation for a few moments you should be able to sell yourself on donating a pint the next time you have an opportunity to do so.

U.S. forces in Korea are giving plenty of blood. U.S. civilians are giving hardly any.

Stocks of whole blood are dangerously low—so low that it could mean the difference between life and death to a number of men who are giving their blood in another fashion at the front lines.

Doctors say whole blood can save a life where plazma cannot. They say the more whole blood used the greater are the chances of survival of those critically wounded.

It's very simple. Most of those soldiers and marines want to live. Some may not live—because of us.

A little grim realization of the facts of death may shake this seeming attitude of indifference.

Donate or don't—that's up to you. But think about it.—B. C.

We Hope They Take The Step

Last year, and the year before, we had a student traffic court on campus. The court handled what its title implies—student traffic problems, including the levying of fines.

Skeptics questioned the delegation of such authority to students. But the court proved itself effective and responsible. There remained little doubt as to its seriousness of purpose by spring term, 1951.

The old traffic court no longer exists.

In its place, under the new ASUO constitution, is the student court. The constitution states, "The court shall have jurisdiction in all disciplinary matters delegated to it by the President of the University or the ASUO Senate."

This is quite a broad definition of the court's powers—probably too broad—but it indicates the court may have more to worry about than traffic this year.

And it looks like it will. Several administrative officials are wholeheartedly in favor of giving the court jurisdiction in minor disciplinary matters—fraternity, sorority and dormitory squabbles and perhaps cheating cases, for instance.

Court members themselves feel capable of assuming some of this responsibility.

But no definite action can be taken until the approval of the student-faculty discipline committee is secured. The subject will be brought up soon at a committee meeting. Its decision will make or break the idea.

We sincerely hope the committee decides to the affirmative and the student court assumes this disciplinary responsibility.

We think students will respect the decisions of a responsible court conducted by students.

It's proved itself responsible in the past two years as a traffic court. We see no reason why its five members wouldn't prove equally as responsible given larger jurisdiction.

It's a move in the right direction—if the discipline committee concurs.

Let's Rationalize

Maybe these pay phones won't be so bad after all!

The new telephones in living organizations are downright bothersome if you're on the paying end. It's surprising how few individuals just happen to be carrying nickles when they pick up the receiver. And the prospective loss of that twentieth part of a dollar each time "Sorry, not here" is heard, gives further cause for consideration.

For these very reasons persons forced to study within hearing-distance of the telephones are having an easier time of it this year. The constant ring-and-run of previous school years has given away to silence and studying.

Since we're going to have pay phones whether we want 'em or not, we might as well rationalize that it was those jangling telephones last year that kept our grades down where they were.—D. D.

So THIS Is Oregon

The Acid Test of True Love Is Given By Living Organization

—By Jim Haycox

There used to be a fellow here who, when things got terrible dull, turned to his friends and said, "Come on, let's all go out and get pinned." What a cynic. He certainly had no conception of the real meaning behind the giving or receiving of fraternity jewelry. Getting pinned is a very serious business.



In the first place, and with no exceptions, girls just don't get pinned to boys like that. A man, be his intentions honorable, has to fight an up hill battle and, so they tell me, it is no less strenuous on the lady. The gentleman must carry on his campaign for several months, or at least several weeks (certainly seven days seems a reasonable minimum).

For her part, it is the girl's duty to keep up the role of interest in other men, distasteful as it is. She must not let the man in pursuit become sure of himself. Though it tears her heart out, she will say, as he offers his brass, "I'm sorry Ronald, but it's so much fun to go out with different boys and besides, I haven't made my mind up yet."

It is a strain on both of them. Her friends tell his friends to tell him (and visa versa) that she (or he) is quite mad about him (or her). This little pipeline probably keeps both of them from going mad. Anyway, pretty soon she becomes sure of her self....

And they get pinned, promising loyalty, fidelity, and morality. The smart ones use only the first two, perhaps hoping time will take care of the rest.

She forgets her past fellas and he his former girls... They are in love. Now if one or both parties are fraternity or sorority members, they are in for a little attention. It's tough to take but perhaps weathering the first

storm together is the true acid test.

Her girl friends think it's sweet, wonderful, a perfect match, and something they kind of "knew it all the time." His friends paint, tub or shower him (and sometimes they force them to kiss right out in public). Men are such beastly realists.

But back to our cynic, the guy who just wanted to go out and pin some body. What a bum. How we all hate him. Maybe if he, and the few like him, read this they will begin to understand and take a more liberal view. For the sake of this old and honored tradition, we hope so. Honest!

--To the Editor--

To A Coed

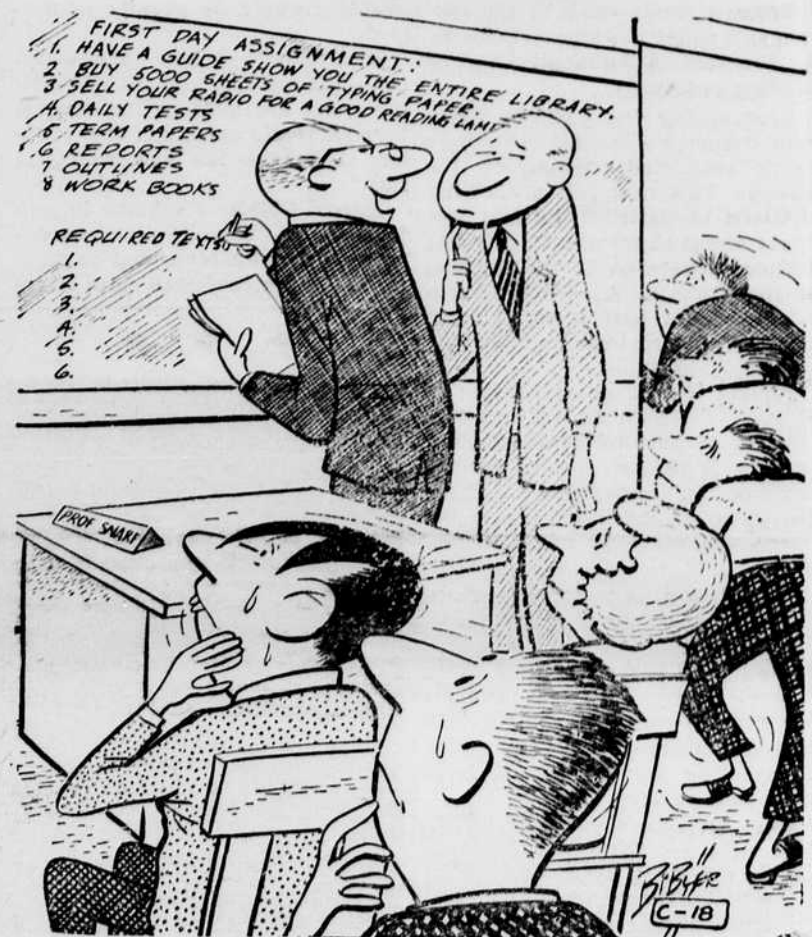
Emerald Editor:
To the good-looking brunette with the red purse, black coat, and purple and white checked head scarf sitting in the SU with seven other girls between 5 and 5:15 Monday afternoon:

Perhaps it is the unjust opinion of two old conservatives that women should not smoke in public that causes us to write this letter. However, nothing is more disturbing than to see a beautiful young lady detract from her charming, wholesome, ordinary self with a graceless cigarette dangling between her lips.

If you by chance recognize yourself in this letter, take time to light up in front of a mirror, and look at the results. Are you satisfied?

Two old conservatives
R. W. Courtright
R. W. Hickman

But Not at Oregon



"This will always work if you feel you're burdened with an extra large class."