

Educational Channel



Straub Food Service Not Ideal

The Emerald heard complaints about the length of time John Straub residents were required to stand in line to receive meals. We decided to run a test and see how long it took at noon.

Leaving an 11 o'clock, an Emerald staff member arrived at the end of the line at 11:58 p.m., Monday. At that time the line stretched north along the sidewalk from the Straub entrance in the center of the block to the curb.

It took about 15 minutes for the staff member to work his way through the line and be served food. This is not such a long time, but it seems long when one is hungry and must stand up.

Most of the time spent in the line is outdoors. When the Oregon weather begins to live up to its reputation, rain and fog will often make these few minutes rather unpleasant.

There are large corridors running parallel to Onyx St. inside the dining hall proper which are not being used for lines at the present. The system now in use calls for the single line to be made up of two people moving abreast. Upon entering the serving area, one man enters the right hand serving line and the other enters the left one.

If serving lines were entered from opposite ends instead of at the center, more use could be made of the corridor space to protect from the weather.

The system at present seems to be serving food about as rapidly as the facilities permit.

Perhaps the chief trouble is the fact that freshman men from the Vet's dorm have a long walk from their rooms to meals. They have to get up around 6:30 a.m. in order to eat breakfast in time for 8 o'clock classes.

It would be more convenient for them if the Vet's dorm kitchen would open. But the conditions preventing this are apparently insurmountable.

The Vet's dorms are rapidly deteriorating. They were never meant to be permanent installations. This fall only 366 freshmen men live in them; less than half of their theoretical capacity.

The Vet's dorm kitchen is also not equipped with efficient facilities, so that operating it, especially with a low number of people eating there, is what one member of the administration termed "a losing proposition all around."

The present situation is not the ideal one but will probably have to be tolerated until such time as the University can go ahead with plans for another permanent men's dormitory to augment John Straub. —B. G.

MORE THAN A CASUAL INTEREST

Europe Likes Ike, Doubtful of GOP

by E. A. Van Natta, Emerald International Affairs Analyst

Previous to World War II a presidential election stimulated about as much popular reaction in Bergen, Paris, or Rome as a periodic fall of a French cabinet does now, say in Junction City. Western Europe, from Norway to Italy, is showing a more than casual interest in the American presidential campaign this year.

Since the war, however, U. S. foreign policy has, for many reasons, attempted to help solve European problems of insecurity, disunity, and economic deterioration. Examples of these attempts include the Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Alliance. Without discussing the merits or defects of such plans the fact remains that most of the Western European governments have accepted them and have already embarked upon a course which depends to a great extent on further U. S. aid and leadership in conjunction with these plans.

Western Europe Fears Withdrawal

Having decided to play the game with the United States one of Western Europe's biggest fears is that her big partner might be induced either to withdraw from the contest or, what is probably worse, force a premature show-down with the Soviet Union. Hence Europe is paying particular attention to any tendencies of neo-isolationism or jingoism in the present campaign.

When Eisenhower left Europe in June of this year he brought with him the esteem and confidence of people who saw in him one of their greatest champions for their efforts toward federation, economic co-operation, and collective security. His victory over the Taft element for the GOP nomination was to Europe a great victory over isolationism and reaction.

For those European governments staking their future well-being on U. S. foreign policy this victory meant that regardless of which party won in

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November, Europe would continue to receive full U. S. support and guidance much the same as in the past four or five years. After all, the people of Europe still remember the general as one of the most efficient and likeable administrators of a U. S. foreign policy which was largely of Democratic inspiration.

Taft Means Isolationism

Certain recent actions and words of the Republican nominee, however, have left many Europeans in a bit of a quandary as to what he really thinks about many issues of foreign policy. First of all they wonder whether or not the reported "rapprochement" between Ike and Taft might not mean that the senator's views on foreign policy will eventually prevail over the general's. Taft's name is considered synonymous with isolationism in Europe today and Europe is rather shocked to think that Ike has joined forces with him.

But the biggest shock to date, for foreign observers came when Ike delivered his foreign policy address before the American Legion convention in Madison Square Garden some weeks ago. In this speech he stated that the present policy of "containment" against the Soviet Union wasn't enough and that some way should be found to force a general Soviet withdrawal.

Now for the past few years Western Europe has been laboring under the assumption that its collective efforts toward economic stability, defense, and unification would aid appreciably in "containing" Soviet expansion within its present boundaries with a reasonable chance for success. However, to a Europe which is both literally and figuratively still picking up the bricks from World War II, any talk about an aggressive show of strength against the Soviet Union to force this latter's retreat can only be received with great apprehension.

What If Not Containment?

Later clarification on the subject by Eisenhower has done little to alleviate the initial scare. Europe wonders just what the general really had in mind since he isn't pleased with the present policy of containment and at the same time he gives indications of not wanting to force the issue too strongly with the Soviet Union.

If Stevenson was little known in this country before his nomination he was virtually unknown in Europe. The European press in general has given him a favorable introduction; while of course the far Left, not wanting to give Ike all the glory (the tool of Wall Street), has come up with an equally vindictive appellation for Adlai—"the heir apparent of the war-monger Truman."

It is very doubtful whether Stevenson as an individual could ever hope to replace Ike in the hearts of Europeans and any claim to renown that he might receive between now and the election will probably have to come from the fact that he is the standard-bearer for the party which Europe considers most responsible for her liberation and post-war economic aid. As time goes on a politically-wise Europe continues to weigh the net produce of both nominees and it is apparent that Stevenson's appeals to reason and common sense are gaining the ascendancy over Ike's avowed use of emotionalism—at least in Europe.

A summing up of the European reaction to the presidential election could be stated something like this, at least for the time being—Western Europe is extremely fond of Eisenhower but very suspicious of the party that he represents and as a result would much prefer to continue to do business with a Democratic administration.

Aldous Huxley Rambles

Philosophy and religion
from a puppet's mouth

By Michael Lundy

Avon Pocket Books has issued a thirty-five cent edition of Aldous Huxley's "After Thirty a Summer Dies the Swan," but we are tempted to forget about it and review a sexy murder story we have just read. However you will probably read the sexy murder anyway, and we've got to keep this column highbrow.

Huxley's book is just as rambling and portentous as its awesome title. The author is one of the most respected of English novelists, but this book doesn't show why. Smatterings of intelligence and dribbles of dry humor show through, but the reader has to do a lot of wading through heavy mud just to get smatterings and dribbles.

Hormones and Gifts

The story is a satire about a California millionaire who tries to find a method of prolonging his meaningless life. He attempts to renew himself with the assumed innocence of his beautiful mistress, by the shots of hormones given him by his young doctor (who also sleeps with the mistress), and by his gifts and benevolence to the children in his personally endowed hospital.

He hires expert geneticists to help him find the secret of longevity, but it is finally found in the diary of an English earl who lived two hundred years before. This earl had discovered that raw entrails of carp, one of the longest lived fish, will prolong life indefinitely if eaten fresh. The consequences of this discovery are somewhat grotesquely amusing.

A Mortuary With Sex

Some fun is poked at southern California institutions such as the millionaire's early medieval chateau, complete with moat and drawbridge, which has a swimming pool on the fifth floor. One of his money making enterprises is the Beverly Pantheon, which is a mortuary to end all mortuaries. A perpetual Wurlitzer plays through loudspeakers. A tiny Taj Mahal and a Church of the Bard give eliteness. And within the leaning tower of Pisa (straightened) sex is introduced into death by thousands of nude statues scattered among the tombs.

So far, so good. This would be a fine, rollicking English comedy of manners. But awkwardly inserted into the horseplay are Huxley's philosophical and religious ideas, which are stuck verbatim into the mouth of a puppet of a character named Propter.

Good and Evil

Huxley is tricky, and if you don't watch out he will fool you. He makes every character but Propter such a complete ass that the things Propter says seem very significant and deep. Thus, the philosophical ideas of the writer may be blindly accepted, along with the rest of the story.

Propter's philosophy is that good can only be an extension of consciousness beyond all personality and action, into a never-never land of communion with some mystical God. Evil, on the other hand is everything that happens on a time-space level of being. There is no good in anything perceivable, only different degrees of evil.

This is fine philosophy, but what is it doing in a light novel? Or perhaps we should ask, why distract us from theological studies with a light novel? At any rate, either one is easily skipped...



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