

Do You Know This Man ?



The man pictured above is H. K. Newburn. He is nationally known as an educator. He is regionally known as a spokesman for the University of Oregon. He is little known to students.

Dr. Newburn has been president of the University of Oregon since 1945. He is a member of the National Education Association and was president of the higher education department in 1946. He was a member of President Truman's Higher Education Board. Newburn recently made a trip to Europe to study educational methods there.

It is our belief that the president of a university should be available to students. President Newburn, with an extensive background in education, is ideally suited for such contact. However, his duties as president of the University and the demand for his services in the educational field have apparently made this impossible.

Newburn has made attempts to contact the students. In October of 1951 he spoke at a 1 p.m. assembly. Less than 100 persons attended. Doubtless this showing discouraged Newburn. However, in the question period which followed Newburn's prepared address a number of topics pertinent to student-administration relations were broached. The president's answers were published and were valuable in exposing the administration's viewpoint on certain student problems.

At the beginning of the 1952-53 academic year Newburn conferred briefly with student leaders at a social hour. It was not the exhaustive study of student problems conducted by President A. L. Strand at OSC at about the same time.

We feel that there should be greater student-administration contact. Too often students are not aware of the policies which the administration is pursuing. We suggest several ways of remedying the situation.

1. President Newburn could set aside a monthly "question hour" during which he would be available to students who wished to learn the administration's attitude on a specific issue.
2. President Newburn might adopt the type of day-long leadership session used by President Strand.
3. The President's office might issue, for publication, bulletins explaining administrative policies.
4. The President could designate administrative heads such as William Jones, dean of administration, or Lyle Nelson, director of public services, to meet with students.

An effective solution to this problem would be another step toward uniting the University.

'Mr. Smith'

Bromfield Book Compares War With Marriage

By Michael Lundy

Louis Bromfield's "Mister Smith" (Signet Giant, 35c) is a novel that should be read by all women just before their wedding and regularly at five year intervals throughout their married lives.

It is a story which deals with the traditional "middle class," somewhat in the Marquand, or Cosmopolitan manner, but with some unusually penetrating insight into the animal known as the average American wife. In the process of showing her up for the shallow creature she is, however, Bromfield unwittingly wins more sympathy for her than for the poor duped husband she preys upon.

Wife Doesn't Understand

Mister Smith is Wolcott Ferris, who tells his own story, and who sees himself as the normal country-clubbing, well-to-do businessman who has discovered that his wife doesn't understand him, his job is a treadmill, and his existence is meaningless. He has looked about him and discovered some truths about American life and marriage which are profound and thought-provoking.

Unfortunately, Mister Smith's attempts at escape and his eventual fate do not in any way resolve these problems, and do not even make a very good novel.

Finds Peace in Pacific

The chronicle is written in first person from the isolation and comparative peace of a remote island in the Pacific, where Ferris is stationed with four enlisted men during the war. Surrounded by the jungle, in fear of attack by the Japanese, and guarding supplies which the army will never use, he finds purpose in his life for the first time by writing the story of his marriage.

Transition and contrast between "The Jungle" and "Oakdale" (Ferris' suburban home), which have alternate chapters in the narrative, is extremely well handled. The simplicity of the existence, the respect for each other's privacy, and the mutual understanding of the soldiers on the island, point up the hurly burly of meaningless existence back home.

One of Ferris' chief complaints is that his wife Enid, and most of his former friends, mask their instability and insecurity by never being alone if it can be avoided. They constantly surround themselves with inane conversation and meaningless activity so that they will never have to face the futility and thoughtlessness of their lives.

Cries Against Materialism

Bromfield's book cries out against the materialism of our people in denial to the intellectual and creative, a subject which has been well trodden on by other writers; seldom as well as it is here done in spots.

The book contains some great writing, but one is led to wish, as he struggles through the last half, that Bromfield had made a short essay about it instead of a long novel. Certainly Wolcott Ferris' love affair with a dope-taking rich girl is not consistent with the quality of the other writing nor of the character himself. The ending, with the hero apparently getting accidentally killed or committing suicide on his jungle island (the issue is left in doubt), seems an easy way out for the author.

Friday at Eight



"Social chairman Gamma Gams? This is the social chairman over at th' Sigma Phi Nothing club. Say I have three boys here who'd like to drop the books for a coffee date and I thought . . ."

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Oregon Daily
EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD published Tuesday through Friday during the college year except Sept. 17 and 19; Nov. 27 through Dec. 1; Dec. 3, 4, 9 and 10; Dec. 12 through Jan. 5; March 5, 10 and 11; Mar. 13 through Mar. 30; and May 30 through June 4, with issues on Nov. 8, Feb. 7 and May 9 by the Student Publications Board of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 per term.

Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not pretend to represent the opinions of the ASUO or of the University. Initialed editorials are written by editorial staff members. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor.

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